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## **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

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**System-wide results of the United Nations development system at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

# **United in action: system-wide results of the United Nations development system at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in 2021\*\***

### *Summary*

The present information document provides an overview of the work of the United Nations development system at the regional level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlights examples of systemwide action and results at the regional level in the course of 2021. The document responds to the call by the Secretary-General for annual reporting on system-wide results at the regional level.

The year 2021 saw countries in Asia and the Pacific emerge from the worst of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, but to a reality of growing inequalities and converging crises. The pandemic has made the need to shift to a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development pathway clearer than ever. The 2030 Agenda provides the compass for countries to set in motion a sustained and sustainable recovery. Efforts need to be redoubled to put countries back on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and recover better.

To this end, the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific has coalesced to shape the regional and national policy discussions and catalyse the required solutions. The Regional Collaborative Platform and its five issue-based coalitions have brought together expertise and resources of regional United Nations entities to make headway in critical priority areas for the region. These range from raising ambition on climate action and building resilience to disasters to strengthening social protection, sustainably managing people mobility and urbanization, and advancing human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams were supported in their work with countries to implement the 2030 Agenda and to formulate a new generation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that are more risk-informed, gender-responsive, and human rights centred.

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\* ESCAP/RFSD/2022/L.1.

\*\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

## I. Introduction

1. The impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have brought the urgency of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals into much sharper focus. Countries across the region are emerging from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic but to a reality of growing inequalities within and across countries. Many countries were caught off guard by the convergence of the pandemic and other disasters, a reminder of the importance of resilience and preparedness. The impacts of runaway climate change escalated as countries struggled to set a higher level of ambition and take action. It is now clearer that the recovery will need to be rooted in a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development, which lies at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. To this end, the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific has coalesced to shape the regional and national policy discussions and catalyse the required solutions. Now in its second year, the Regional Collaborative Platform has mobilized collective expertise to assist countries, including through the support to the Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams, to accelerate action across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This contributed to a better understanding and a higher level of ambition on a range of areas from climate change and disaster risk reduction to social protection and human rights and gender.

3. The work of the Regional Collaborative Platform has left an imprint in a new generation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that are more risk-informed, gender-responsive, and human rights-centred. The regional level has played a facilitation role between the global and national levels on agendas critical for the region such as sustainable food systems and financing for development. Guided by the 2030 Agenda, partnerships with subregional organizations were strengthened.

4. The present document provides a snapshot of results achieved in 2021 by the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific in partnership with national and local governments, subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, and the business sector.

## II. Regional challenges, opportunities, and responses from the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific

5. Sustainable Development Goal progress in the region is slowing down at a time when acceleration is needed. The region has made the most progress in building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation (Goal 9) and ensuring affordable and clean energy (Goal 7). However, it has regressed in terms of taking climate action (Goal 13) and promoting responsible consumption and production (Goal 12). The region has made little or no progress in the areas of quality education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), water and sanitation (Goal 6), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), and life below water (Goal 14).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021* (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

6. Yet the pandemic has also shown that Asia and the Pacific can no longer rely on a growth model with staggering costs to people and the planet. The overlaying risks of disasters, climate change and pandemics are likely to loom large over the future of the region highlighting the need for resilience, especially among the most vulnerable. It has also spotlighted an increasingly digital world where the delivery of products and services is deeply dependent on digital access and literacy.

7. Helping countries in the region to stay on course to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and recover better lies at the heart of the value proposition of the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific. Particularly, joint efforts have helped to develop and upscale solutions to address transboundary issues such as air pollution, disaster preparedness, and human mobility. Stakeholders from the public and private sectors were brought together to chart common solutions towards promoting human rights and enhancing statistics systems. The regional expertise of the United Nations was mobilized to strengthen national efforts to transpose the international norms and standards to national context. The United Nations development system has also worked towards the inclusion of the most vulnerable people in many COVID-19 socio-economic response and development plans in the region, including in conflict affected countries.

#### *Consolidating the reforms of the Secretary-General*

8. To strengthen the impact of its joint work, the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific is moving at full speed with the implementation of the five transformative areas outlined by the Secretary-General for restructuring United Nations regional assets in support of the 2030 Agenda,<sup>2</sup> that are now fully integrated into the work of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific: (a) a unified mechanism for regional coordination; (b) the establishment of strong regional knowledge-management hubs; (c) annual reporting on system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda; (d) the consolidation of existing capacities on data and statistics; (e) and the identification of administrative services that could be provided through common back offices.

9. The Regional Collaborative Platform is at the centre of collective action, providing a platform for collaboration and strategic discussion at the regional level. It has allowed for six dedicated dialogues between the regional level and the Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams ensuring regional-national policy coherence and making available regional support to a specific country context. The quarterly meetings of the Regional Collaborative Platform, focusing on both coordination and substantive policy discussion, helped its members find ways to apply collective expertise and advocacy to major regional needs.

10. The issue-based coalitions (IBCs), have played a stronger role in channelling regional analytical and policy expertise to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The work of the issue-based coalitions has informed deliberations of Member States on the implementation of international agreements, norms, and standards.

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<sup>2</sup> A/74/73 – E/2019/14.

11. The regional-national exchange of expertise and knowledge has benefited from the Asia-Pacific Knowledge Management Hub.<sup>3</sup> Throughout the year the Hub welcomed over 3,600 new users, averaging over 1,500 interactions on a monthly basis and growing consistently, allowing universal access to knowledge products across regional United Nations entities. The interagency working group on knowledge management also piloted a community of practice with a focus on the implementation of nationally determined contributions which enabled an interactive exchange between the Issue-based Coalitions and the United Nations at the country level, such as the sharing of updated analysis in the lead-up to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties.

12. Sustainable Development Goal data and statistics is one of the key areas of technical support to United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams. The Working Group on SDG Data and Statistics launched a Sustainable Development Goal statistics clinic series to enhance the capacity of Resident Coordinator Offices and Country Teams to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems. The introductory clinic in December 2021 focused on the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework, Goal monitoring in national development planning, and the specific needs of Country Teams on Goal data and statistics. In addition, the Working Group provided technical support to Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, for example in Indonesia to map its Goal data and statistics capacity and in Thailand to review the Goal indicators in their common country analysis.

13. The regular Asia-Pacific Stats Café series continued to facilitate exchanges of practices and advice between United Nations entities and national statistics offices. Throughout 2021, the series brought together an audience of over 2250 participants exploring a wide range of topics aligned to country priorities and requests for assistance such as disaster-related statistics, gender data, big data governance and partnership and use of geospatial data.

14. The Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway continues to be enhanced as a consolidated window on data and analysis on the Goals at regional, subregional and country levels. In 2021 users were able to access additional features including country Sustainable Development Goal profiles and visualizations of country comparisons and Goal data availability. The new National SDG Trackers allows countries to produce SDG progress assessment dashboards using their own data, indicators, and national target values. It is implemented in collaboration with national statistical systems and Resident Coordinator Offices in Brunei Darussalam, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nauru, the Philippines, Samoa, and Tonga.

15. The annual Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report coordinated by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) continues to mobilize contributions from across the United Nations development system, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The pooled

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<sup>3</sup> The Asia-Pacific Knowledge Management Hub can be accessed at: <https://knowledge.unasiapacific.org/>.

expertise allows the report to not only examine the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda but also offer a multidimensional analysis of the intersection between vulnerabilities and pandemics through the lens of the Goals.

16. The Regional Operations Management Team (ROMT) is established to develop the Regional Business Operations Strategy (R-BOS) and support the implementation of efficiency initiatives in the region. The development of the Regional BOS has been initiated. Further commitment and engagement from all Regional Collaborative Platform members will be required to complete the development of the regional BOS by end of March 2022.

17. The regional Peer Support Group (PSG) provided quality assurance, advice and practical recommendations to United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams undertaking common country analyses and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process. This includes substantive support on the guiding principles on human rights and analysing the interlinkages between health, social protection, digitization and economic growth. As a result, the United Nations Country Teams in Maldives and the Lao People's Democratic Republic were able to support countries in fulfilling the Universal Periodic Review recommendations. Women empowerment and gender equality were elevated among the four strategic priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in Bangladesh. Integrated response to the triple planetary crisis and leveraging the fourth industrial revolution were elevated to be the shared commitment of the United Nations Country Teams in Thailand, Malaysia, and Viet Nam.

18. The United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNEDAP) provided technical support to the evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks by the United Nations Country Teams in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, the multi-country offices in the Pacific, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The support helped to improve the quality of the evaluation and inform the development of the new Frameworks. In 2021, members of UNEDAP organized a seven-week online course "Unravelling the Potential of Evaluations" for 35 evaluation managers of all United Nations entities in the region. The inter-agency evaluation training, since its first edition in 2009, has helped to enhance the effectiveness of the evaluation of the work of the United Nations in line with the Guidelines of the United Nations Evaluation Group. The training in 2021, redesigned to a virtual format, provided an overview of United Nations evaluation norms and standards and methodologies while offering a dedicated session on the evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and inter-agency experience sharing.

19. The elements of the Reform have taken root in the work of the United Nations development system in Asia-Pacific. Progress is seen in the mobilization of expertise, knowledge assets and resources across the members of the Regional Collaborative Platform. There has been a stronger engagement between regional assets and Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams on issues of transboundary nature and priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Frameworks.

20. There are areas for improvement, which were identified through the end-of-year review of the Regional Collaborative Platform and dialogues with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams. These include stepping up the two-way partnerships between the regional and country level,

with the common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks as entry points. In addition, the work of the Regional Collaborative Platform needs to build more on system-wide synergy and expertise to ensure its agility and effectiveness.

21. The following sections provide an overview of the key activities and results in 2021 in each of the priority areas of action. The selected highlights showcase and illustrate the contribution of the regional United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific in assisting Member States to accelerate action towards the Sustainable Development Goals. These capture concrete achievements of the regional issue-based coalitions and Working Groups under the Regional Collaborative Platform as well as those accomplished outside the realm of these groups.

### **III. Highlights of system-wide results at the regional level in 2021**

#### **A. Climate change mitigation**

22. Climate change poses the single most important threat to the regional economy, livelihoods, and natural environment in Asia and the Pacific. While being a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, the region is also home to five of the countries most vulnerable to impacts of climate change globally. The reliance on fossil fuels has not only led to increasing emissions but also put millions of lives at risk for exposure to air pollution.

23. To this end, the Issue-based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation has mobilized and coordinated the regional response to the challenges of climate change and air pollution. It engages with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams through the provision of analysis and technical support on climate change mitigation related issues, including within the framework of the common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Frameworks. The Issue-based Coalition is co-led by ESCAP and UNEP, with the participation and contribution of 14 other United Nations entities.

#### *Developing technical analysis for raising climate ambitions*

24. Ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26), members of the Coalition developed a range of technical analyses on the level of ambitions and state of climate change in the region. ESCAP, UNEP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the greenwerk analysed nationally determined contributions of countries in the region and assessed the gaps towards carbon neutrality by 2030.<sup>4</sup> The analysis revealed that the level of ambition in the region fell far short of what was needed. The current level of commitments would lead to a 35 per cent increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the region by 2030 compared to 2010. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in collaboration with ESCAP and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) developed a scientific analysis on the effects of climate change in the region.

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<sup>4</sup> Available at [www.unescap.org/kp/2021/15degc-within-reach-asia-pacific-region-ambition-and-potential-ndc-commitments-asia-pacific](http://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/15degc-within-reach-asia-pacific-region-ambition-and-potential-ndc-commitments-asia-pacific).

25. Based on the analysis, the Issue-based Coalition organized a series of dialogues that forged regional perspectives and communicated a shared sense of urgency prior to and during COP26. The Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021 helped shape a shared perspective across the public and private sectors, civil society, academia and youth in the lead up to COP26 focusing on: inclusiveness at the core of nationally determined contributions and National Adaptation Plans; enhanced vertical integration, and leadership and innovation. An official side-event at COP26 generated a common understanding of the current level of ambition and where emission gaps needed to be closed. Discussions with Resident Coordinators created a shared understanding of the state of play in each country and where more integrated support and advocacy by the United Nations at the national level is needed.

26. Members of the Issue-based Coalition also delivered technical support to review nationally determined contributions, including in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, and Viet Nam. Following the support, these countries announced their commitment to developing long-term low-carbon development strategies and more ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Bangladesh, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Korea shared their strategies at the COP26 side event organized by the Issue-based Coalition. In the area of needs-based finance, members of the Coalition provided technical guidance to member States on carbon pricing in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Central Asia subregions.

*Raising awareness for accelerating action on air pollution*

27. The Coalition also continued to raise awareness and share solutions on air pollution. Members shared data and lessons from air pollution projects and worked collectively to mainstream science-based solutions developed by UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. For example, ESCAP, in partnership with UNEP, the Resident Coordinators and the private sector, developed methodologies to use remote sensing, satellite imagery and machine learning to identify specific sources of urban air pollution in Thailand. These initiatives led to concrete results, including in the city of Chiang Mai with a local action plan for air pollution being developed, and in Bangkok, innovative analysis on air quality, crop burning and traffic congestion data, is being used by national and local authorities.

28. Members of the Coalition were involved in the second commemoration of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, on 7 September 2021, as part of the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership conference. It allowed for the Coalition to gather support from Member States and partners with a view to developing a more effective modality for regional cooperation on air pollution.

*Accelerating coal phase down*

29. Phasing down coal is of critical importance to achieving climate ambitions in Asia and the Pacific as the world's largest coal producer and consumer, as also reflected in countries' national development plans. In this context, as a sub-group of the Coalition, ESCAP, ILO, UNEP, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), have created political momentum and identified technical solutions to support countries phase down coal. The group conducted a regional analysis<sup>5</sup> and a series of

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<sup>5</sup> Available at [www.unescap.org/kp/2021/coal-phase-out-and-energy-transition-pathways-asia-and-pacific](http://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/coal-phase-out-and-energy-transition-pathways-asia-and-pacific)

national policy briefs on opportunities for coal phase down and energy transition pathways. The insights were the basis for national roundtables in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Viet Nam, engaging key national policymakers. With the technical support of the Coalition, the Resident Coordinator Office in Viet Nam was able to contribute to national dialogues on energy and climate in the lead up to COP26 and the country's draft National Power Development Plan.

30. At the regional level, the Coalition was able to share analytical insights and share best practices in reducing planned coal project pipeline through regional policy dialogues during the third session of the ESCAP Committee on Energy and the seventy-seventh session of the Commission in 2021.

31. The Coalition's coordinated advocacy helped deliver important commitments under the outcome of COP26, with key countries revising down their planned coal-fired capacity in the leadup to COP26, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam.

## **B. Building resilience**

32. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need for building resilience to overlaying risks in Asia and the Pacific. The region suffers from losses of thousands of lives and \$780 billion annually to disasters, climate change impacts, and biohazards.

33. The Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience brings together the work on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It engages with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams through the provision of policy and normative support on disaster-related issues, including within the framework of the common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Frameworks. It is co-led by UNDP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), with the participation and contribution from 20 other United Nations entities.<sup>6</sup>

### *Strengthening awareness on building resilience*

34. Even in the midst of the pandemic, disaster displacement continued to be a pressing challenge to the disaster-prone countries of Asia and the Pacific. In response, the members of the Coalition developed concrete suggestions for policymakers to prevent, mitigate and respond to disaster-related internal displacement in the context of health crises, drawing also on lessons-learned in conflict situations<sup>7</sup>. Sharing practical insights from the experiences of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vanuatu, the analysis reinforced the importance of context-specific, collective, and multi-hazard approaches.

<sup>6</sup> ESCAP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Telecommunication Union, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UNHCR, UNICEF, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), UN-Women, WMO, and the World Food Programme (WFP).

<sup>7</sup> Available at <https://knowledge.unasiapacific.org/our-work/knowledge-resources/weathering-storms-covid-19-disasters-and-internal-displacement-asia>.



35. Although countries in the region have shown significant progress in infrastructure development, systemic gaps were exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly when struck by various climate-related disasters. To provide timely insights to policymakers, the Coalition prepared a policy brief<sup>8</sup> which can be used to ensure that investments address the principle to Leave No One Behind and are disaster- and climate-resilient. The analysis also served as the basis for intergovernmental discussions at the Regional Learning Platform feeding into the seventh session of ESCAP's Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>9</sup> in August 2021.

36. To ensure risk-informed design of projects and programmes, members of the Coalition developed and piloted a United Nations Risk and Resilient Marker. It allows evaluating the degree to which disaster, climate, and conflict risks are integrated into projects and monitor how the planned measures contribute to reducing risks.

37. Based on UNESCO's concept of futures literacy, UNDP, UNDRR and UNESCO joined hands with U-INSPIRE Alliance to apply future thinking into disaster risk reduction. The initiative engaged over 700 youths and young professionals in a series of webinars and 'Futures Thinking Labs.' As a result, participating youths were able to challenge the conventional way of thinking around disasters and develop their own solutions, aligning with the Secretary-General's recommendation in his report on "Our Common Agenda" to listen to and work with young people, and ensure long-term thinking."

*Deepening collaboration with regional networks*

38. At the regional level, the Coalition contributed to informing the deliberations of Member States on holistic disaster risk reduction. In the lead up to the regional review on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, this included a dedicated side event at the eighth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on resilient recovery and risk-informed transition strategies of the graduating least developed countries. The Coalition's efforts to raise awareness about the need for multi-hazard and multisectoral disaster risk governance fed into the resolution<sup>10</sup> adopted by Member States at the seventy-seventh session of the Commission on integrating health into disaster risk reduction. This was further elaborated into specific recommendations for capacity development and regional cooperation by the seventh session of the ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in August 2021.

39. IOM and UNDRR developed a policy brief providing recommendations on displacement prevention, response and long-term solutions, building on the experiences in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. As a result, regional experiences and perspectives were reflected in the deliberations of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and its report.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Available at <https://knowledge.unasiapacific.org/our-work/knowledge-resources/climate-and-disaster-resilient-infrastructure-building-resilience>.

<sup>9</sup> [www.unescap.org/events/2021/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-seventh-session](http://www.unescap.org/events/2021/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-seventh-session).

<sup>10</sup> ESCAP/RES/77/1.

<sup>11</sup> Available at [www.internaldisplacement-panel.org/](http://www.internaldisplacement-panel.org/).

*Providing coordinated technical support and policy advice*

40. Members of the Coalition, through the Regional Peer Support Group, provided technical support to United Nations Country Teams for the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in the Pacific Multi-Country Offices. In particular, the Coalition provided inputs on environmental issues, climate adaptation and disaster risk management, blue economy and climate finance, amongst others in the development of the common country analyses.

41. At the country level, members of the Coalition provided policy advice on the development of an Action Plan for the recently adopted Bangladesh National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate-Induced Internal Displacement.

*Strengthening and scaling up national actions*

42. FAO and UNDP are supporting Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal and Thailand to cope with climate change impacts in the agriculture and land-use through the programme Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through nationally determined contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA) programme. Support is being delivered based on specific country contexts such as capacity building and strengthening the evidence base for adaptation and mitigation activities in Cambodia and Mongolia.

43. As part of the Global National Adaptation Plan Support Program, UNDP and UNEP supported the exchange of lessons learnt and identification of opportunities for the least developed countries to address medium- and long-term adaptation needs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. It highlighted the importance of a whole-of-society approach to resilience and an integrated approach to climate adaptation across national and sub-national policies.

44. ESCAP and the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) of UNITAR have provided over 50 satellite images and value-added analyses to countries in Asia and the Pacific for early warning, response and damage assessment of floods, cyclones, and landslides. Support was also provided to adopt innovative artificial intelligence operational tools for flood monitoring and capacity building for the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) and the "Space2030" Agenda formulated by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

45. UNDRR in collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs supported the Bangladesh Humanitarian Country Task Team to integrate risk information into humanitarian decision making. In particular, the partners supported the identification of gaps in the data and information management and in setting up a working group to strengthen capacities. As a result, the Government of Bangladesh developed a first-ever humanitarian-development nexus strategy 2021–2025, for the Government and the United Nations to collaborate on addressing risks to climate-related disasters.

## C. Inclusion and empowerment

46. Even before the pandemic, the region was already faced with increasing inequalities. Over half of the population was not covered by any social protection scheme. Groups that may be in vulnerable situations, such as women, persons with disabilities, youth, children, and those forcibly displaced are bearing disproportionate impacts of the socioeconomic fallout from the pandemic.

47. To this end, the Issue-based Coalition on Inclusion and Empowerment mobilises regional resources and expertise to deepen understanding, strengthen policy frameworks and collectively advocate for inclusion and empowerment of the most vulnerable. It engages with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams through the provision of analytical tools and technical support on social protection, including within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. The Coalition is co-led by ILO and UNICEF, with the participation and contribution from 10 other United Nations entities.<sup>12</sup>

### *Strengthening regional cooperation on social protection*

48. In 2020, Member States endorsed the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific<sup>13</sup> at the sixth session of ESCAP's Committee on Social Development. It recognizes social protection as a priority for the region and outlines a framework of 12 national measures and three regional actions to be implemented by 2030.

49. In 2021, the Coalition supported the translation of the Action Plan into national actions, through peer learning, sharing of good practices, and technical support to the Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in assisting countries strengthen social protection in line with the Action Plan's priority areas. Technical deep dives were organized to support the United Nations Country Teams in using simulation and analytical tools to identify those furthest behind and ripple impacts of social protection. This served as the direct inputs into common country analyses, for example in Mongolia. The work of the Coalition also brought about integrated policy advice and capacity building support, including joint training with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, to national stakeholders in Cambodia, Mongolia, and the Philippines.

### *Informing dialogues on sexual and reproductive health*

50. About half of the world's estimated 1.8 billion young people live in Asia and the Pacific. While sexual and reproductive health services are critical to their health, safety and well-being, significant legal and policy barriers persist hindering their access to and benefit from essential services.

51. To this end, the work of the Coalition helped to enhance policy dialogue between policymakers and youth and promote south-south cooperation on sexual and reproductive health. Members of the Coalition mapped recent legal and policy developments affecting the sexual and reproductive health and

<sup>12</sup> ESCAP, FAO, OHCHR, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNDRR, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNFPA, the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV), and the World Food Programme.

<sup>13</sup> ESCAP/CSD/2020/3.

rights of young people in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>14</sup> Based on the analysis, the Coalition organized a regional exchange focusing on major developments that either support or impede countries in achieving the goals and targets related to sexual and reproductive health in the 2030 Agenda.

*Strengthening social health protection towards universal health coverage*

52. Over the past decades, countries in Asia and the Pacific have rapidly expanded social health protection coverage. Yet inequalities in coverage and access to healthcare services still exist across and within countries, especially among the most vulnerable and amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The region is home to some of the most rapidly ageing populations in the world, with profound implications on societies and economies.

53. The Coalition offered new insights into the status of social health protection in Asia and the Pacific while creating opportunities for knowledge and experience sharing between countries and stakeholders. Analysis by the Coalition revealed that only 63.4 per cent of the population is covered by a healthcare scheme leaving about 1.6 billion people wholly unprotected. Building on the analysis, ILO with the support of ESCAP, UNICEF, and UNFPA and in collaboration with the regional platform CONNECT for Social Health Protection, organized a multi-stakeholder discussion on extending social health protection in the region towards universal health coverage. These partners also organized the regional conference on extending social health protection in Asia and the Pacific towards universal health coverage.

*Advancing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 in the context of COVID-19*

54. The Learning and Education 2030+ Networking Group is the regional coordination mechanism for education in Asia and the Pacific. It is co-chaired by UNESCO and UNICEF with the participation of ILO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, WFP, and World Health Organization (WHO), and institutional and civil society partners.

55. In 2021, the Group conducted a review of the progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 in the region<sup>15</sup> and a situation analysis highlighting specific impacts of the pandemic on education and responses and experiences of 14 countries in East Asia, South-East Asia and South Asia.<sup>16</sup> This analysis will serve as the basis for Member States deliberations at the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers Conference in June 2022.

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<sup>14</sup> Available at <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/young-people-and-law-laws-and-policies-impacting-young-peoples-sexual-and-reproductive>.

<sup>15</sup> Available at <https://knowledge.unasiapacific.org/our-work/knowledge-resources/5-year-progress-review-sdg-4-education-2030-asia-pacific>.

<sup>16</sup> Available at <https://knowledge.unasiapacific.org/our-work/knowledge-resources/covid-19-education-situation-analysis-asia>.

56. The Group also leveraged its multi-stakeholder network to exchange solutions in learning recovery from the pandemic among Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea, including on safely reopening schools, remediation, and the adaptation of learning solutions to ensure continuity of learning.<sup>17</sup>

57. Through a Framework for Reopening Schools by UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Bank, and WFP, the education systems in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories were provided with practical advice to plan for the return of students to in-person learning including safety measures, tailored support services, effective remedial learning, and preparedness of teachers. In Fiji, UNICEF and WHO adapted the global guidance on safe school re-opening to advise governments on safety measures, enabling a safe return to school with a healthy learning environment. The policy advice drew from the evidence that schools are not the drivers of community spread of COVID-19 and that children are safer in schools than in communities if the right safety measures are followed.

*Promoting inclusive businesses and decent jobs for all*

58. The Unlimited ASEAN Forum, a joint initiative by UNDP, UNICEF, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, EU-ASEAN Business Council and Decent Jobs for Youth, promoted greater engagement between the private sector, governments and young people on skill development, entrepreneurship and employment. The Forum mobilized over 500 participants and leading companies such as HSBC, Google and Ericsson, to foster partnerships and investments into the youth agenda.

59. In response to the unprecedented business fallout from the pandemic, UNDP and UNICEF designed a simple and accessible tool to help businesses consider and manage the human rights impacts of their operations. The Human Rights Due Diligence and COVID-19: Rapid Self-Assessment for Business incorporates relevant normative frameworks such as the United Nations Human Rights Treaties, the ILO Fundamental Conventions and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The tool was translated into 10 languages, downloaded more than 8,700 times and uploaded onto about 90 websites many of which are hosted by business associations.

60. ILO in collaboration with UNV, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNIDO conducted the Decent Employment for Youth initiative in Cambodia. Throughout 2020 and 2021, the initiative delivered entrepreneurship and skills training for 8,000 Cambodian youth, women, entrepreneurs, small business owners, technical and vocational education and training students, vulnerable and marginalized groups through the ILO's Activity-Based Learning programmes and Know About Business. Survey results among participants reported improvements in their entrepreneurial mind-set, problem solving, communication, and teamwork skills.

*Accelerating the prevention and treatment of wasting*

61. To translate the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting into national actions, FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO supported countries to develop national roadmaps that embed the commitments to accelerate progress in the prevention and treatment of child wasting. In 2021 country roadmaps were

<sup>17</sup> Available at <https://apa.sdg4education2030.org/sites/apa.sdg4education2030.org/files/2021-07/Concept%20Note%20%2826%20July%29.pdf>.

finalized in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Timor-Leste.<sup>18</sup>

62. FAO in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP and WHO also convened a high-level advocacy meeting at the regional level that led to a Call for Action to governments to prioritize and make commitments to prevent and treat child wasting. The event also allowed sharing numerous promising examples from countries to strengthen the prevention and treatment of wasting.

63. The Asia United Nations Network on Nutrition for the Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement, comprised of regional nutrition advisors and nutrition officers from FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO coordinates joint nutrition programmes in the region. The pooled expertise of the Network resulted in joint regional knowledge production, such as the annual regional review of food security and nutrition,<sup>19</sup> which provides authoritative analysis into a wide range of areas such as undernourishment, food insecurity, childhood stunting, wasting and overweight. The Network is partnering with the Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement to extend the collaboration to other United Nations entities to address all forms of malnutrition in the region.

#### *Building capacity of youth networks and promoting meaningful participation*

64. UNDP and UNICEF have promoted meaningful civic and climate engagement through national youth councils as scalable entry points. The partnership has been translated into a number of joint and agency-specific initiatives by country offices to co-invest in and build the capacity of national youth councils and other youth networks.

65. In Malaysia, the online platform @KitaConnect was launched at the onset of the pandemic for youths to share and learn about ideas and skills and connect with each other on issues that concern them such as mental health, civic engagement, and others. The platform continues to grow and has reached over 600,000 adolescents and youth in 2021.

66. In Pakistan, UNDP and UNICEF jointly launched an online Youth Practice School providing opportunities for young people to build skills for active public participation. In Nepal, the collaboration is contributing to more adolescent and youth-friendly local governance in seven provinces through contextualized trainings developed in consultation with young people.

#### *Enhancing subregion and national efforts to eliminate child labour*

67. The United Nations declared 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. FAO and ILO collaborated at the regional and national levels to advocate for accelerated action for ending child labour by 2025. This resulted in a joint advocacy workshop on ending child labour in agriculture and on-going collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat to implement the ASEAN roadmap on the elimination of the worst form of child labour by 2025.

68. ILO and UNICEF helped the General Directorate Statistic of Timor-Leste produce qualitative research on child labour to inform national actions. With the survey results and report expected by March 2022, the findings will feed into various national policy instruments such as the Updated

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<sup>18</sup> Available at [www.childwasting.org/the-gap-framework](http://www.childwasting.org/the-gap-framework).

<sup>19</sup> Available at [www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb2895en](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb2895en).

Child Labour National Action Plan, and the updated Hazardous Work list and Inspection tools.

#### **D. Human mobility and urbanization**

69. Even before the pandemic, the region made little progress in ensuring safe migration and mobility of the population. At the same time, the region is home to over half of the global urban population with increasing demands from provision of basic services to adequate housing.

70. To this end, the Issue-based Coalition on Human Mobility and Urbanization helped enhance the evidence base, forge new partnerships and make available technical support. The Coalition engaged with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams through the sharing of policy advice and guidance on integrating urbanization and human mobility into the United Nations Sustainable Development Frameworks. It is co-led by IOM and UN-Habitat with the contribution of 16 other United Nations entities.<sup>20</sup> The work is complemented by the Regional Network on Migration.

##### *Enhancing the evidence base on people mobility and urbanization*

71. During the COVID-19 pandemic, containment and prevention measures have disrupted and restricted inter-city and transnational movements while giving rise to reverse migration. The rollout of stimulus packages has helped to alleviate the socio-economic fallout, yet marginalized and vulnerable populations remain at risk. This highlights the role of the local level in responding to the pandemic and in facilitating inclusive and equitable recovery.

72. At the country level, UNDP, UNDRR, and UN-Habitat collaborated to support the Government's efforts to build urban resilience at the national and local levels in Thailand.

73. Moreover, to address child marriage in humanitarian settings, UNFPA and UNICEF partnered with the Women's Refugee Commission and the Centre for Humanitarian Health at the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to conduct country studies in Bangladesh and Nepal<sup>21</sup> to establish an evidence database. The studies provided evidence on climate marriage practices in conflict-affected refugees in Bangladesh and earthquake-affected communities in Nepal.

##### *Supporting the implementation, review and follow-up of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

74. In support of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Network also prepared the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020 providing a baseline assessment of the implementation of the Global Compact in the region.

<sup>20</sup> ESCAP, FAO, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN-Women and WFP.

<sup>21</sup> Available at <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/child-marriage-humanitarian-settings-south-asia>.

75. The first regional review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific<sup>22</sup> was organized by ESCAP with the technical support and contribution of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific<sup>23</sup>. It gathered twenty-one voluntary reviews and five stakeholder consultations. The review concluded with a call for greater collaboration among countries in the region to implement this global framework for action to reap the benefits of migration for all. Regional perspectives will feed into the International Migration Review Forum in 2022.

76. Building on the review, the Network is helping Member States accelerate the implementation of the Global Compact in Asia and the Pacific and prepare for the International Migration Review Forum this year. The Network is conducting a series of consultations in collaboration with Member States on priorities and challenges for implementation. A first consultation, co-hosted by Thailand and the Philippines, focused on access to health services for migrants in the context of the pandemic, while a second consultation, hosted by Indonesia, focused on COVID-19 impacts on migrants' return and sustainable reintegration policy.

## **E. Human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment**

77. Advancing gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights are areas where the region has made little progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The by-products of the pandemic, from increasing unpaid care work and insecure work to worsening violence against women, have exacerbated the entrenched inequalities of women and girls.

78. The Issue-based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment channels the collective expertise and resources of the regional United Nations development system to accelerate progress in realising gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights. The Coalition engages with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams through the provision of analysis, policy and capacity building support to operationalise the human-rights based approach, gender equality and women empowerment principles and related international normative commitments. It is co-chaired by OHCHR, UNFPA and UN-Women with contribution of 14 other United Nations entities.

### *Providing integrated technical support to United Nations Country Teams*

79. In 2021, the Coalition supported the development of a new generation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that embed a human-rights based approach, and the principles of gender equality and leaving no one behind. This was delivered through dedicated training activities for United Nations Country Teams in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, and Nepal.

80. To strengthen links to United Nations Country Teams, the Coalition established the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Working Group as a platform for United Nations personnel at national and regional levels to collaborate, build capacity and share information and experiences on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. A range of topics was explored,

<sup>22</sup> [www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly](http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly).

<sup>23</sup> Members include ESCAP, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, and UN-Women.



including integrating human rights-based approach and gender equality and women empowerment in the work of the United Nations, addressing racial discrimination and the protection of minorities; and promoting civic space and the Call to Action on Human Rights.

81. A regional training on measuring Sustainable Development Goal 16 implementation in Asia organized by the Working Group was able to reach 1,200 participants. The Working Group's discussions on the Call to Action on Human Rights contributed to the development of a capacity-building course by OHCHR and UNFPA which will be rolled out in 2022 and replicated by other entities. It focuses on the synergies and challenges across the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions in which human rights are cross-cutting and interrelated.

82. The Coalition also developed knowledge products to advise and support United Nations Country Teams in the implementation of normative commitments with Member States. These cover a range of issues including human rights, the environment and environmental rule of law,<sup>24</sup> research into COVID-19 and violence against women using analysis of big data,<sup>25</sup> country reports on ending violence against women and children in East Asia and the Pacific,<sup>26</sup> and a technical guidance on the safe use of technology for the provision of services to women migrant workers at risk of or subject to violence.<sup>27</sup>

*Delivering collective regional advocacy on human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment*

83. The Coalition's work informed the preparation and organization of the roundtable on Sustainable Development Goal 16 at the Eighth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and a side event on embedding human rights in the recovery from COVID-19 and recovering better. This effort contributed to the formulation of policy recommendations to accelerate Goal 16 implementation in the region. The recommendation was discussed at the Forum and subsequently submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

84. The Coalition launched, in December 2021, a month-long regional campaign "Raise Every Voice for Equality" to commemorate the Human Rights Day. The campaign, disseminated through 13 United Nations entities and country offices, brought together voices of rights holders across the region through short digital videos in local languages and a photo exhibition.

*Addressing generation equality at multiple levels*

85. In 2021, the global Generation Equality Forum was convened by UN-Women and the governments of Mexico and France leading to approximately 1,000 commitments to advance gender equality. An

<sup>24</sup> Available at <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35408>.

<sup>25</sup> Available at <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/covid-19-and-violence-against-women-evidence-behind-talk>.

<sup>26</sup> Available at <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/ending-violence-against-women-and-children-east-asia-and-pacific>.

<sup>27</sup> Available at <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/03/safe-technology-for-the-provision-of-services-to-women-migrant-workers>.

accompanying Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action was launched with 120 signatories - including the ASEAN Secretariat.

86. The work of the Coalition helped to feed regional perspectives into the global process while bringing its action areas closer to stakeholders in the region. Members of the Coalition mobilized their country offices, government partners, civil society, private sector and international financial institutions around regional multi-stakeholder dialogues under five areas: feminist action for climate justice; technology and innovation for gender equality; economic justice and rights; gender-based violence; and feminist movements and leadership. The dialogues attracted over 1,000 attendees generating region-specific recommendations in each of the areas.

87. As the Generation Equality Forum concluded in Paris in July 2021 with a Global Acceleration Plan to advance gender equality, members of the Coalition also convened a Youth Activism Accelerator, attracting 1,400 participants, to help youth understand the relevant normative and intergovernmental processes and opportunities for engagement and influence. Following up on the requests from adolescent girls and young women at the event, UNICEF joined hands with ITU and Code.org in establishing a Regional Coding Hub, to enable girls to access training packages in different languages on information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

*Delivering coordinated regional advocacy for ending violence against women and girls*

88. The momentum for implementing the outcomes of the Generation Equality Forum was also sustained by a sub-working group of the Coalition, UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls. The campaign “Orange the World: End violence against women now!”, launched in November 2021 and co-designed with youth and activists in the region, focused on debunking myths and misconceptions about violence against women and promoting game-changing solutions from the region.

89. The group also supported a number of important events throughout the year, including sharing findings and recommendations of the regional report on ending violence against women and children in Asia and the Pacific, launching the report on estimates of violence against women with a focus on South Asia and Southeast Asia, and a regional social media campaign focusing on solutions to address gender-based violence and clarifying longstanding myths and false beliefs about the causes of gender-based violence.

*Accelerating the implementation of regional commitments on civil registration and vital statistics*

90. Across the region, more than 65 million children under the age of five still do not have their birth registered. The commitment to removing all barriers to civil registration, especially among the most vulnerable, was central to the Ministerial Declaration of the second Ministerial Conference on Civil

Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>28</sup> co-organized by ESCAP with 13 development partners.<sup>29</sup>

91. The regional mid-term review of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade took place in November 2021 in the context of the joint regional initiative to “Get Every One in the Picture”.<sup>30</sup> Development partners joined hands to support countries in the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific in a wide range of areas such as birth and death registration, vital statistics, legal identity or digitization, as per countries’ needs. Technical assistance to Member States has helped produce vital statistics, assess inequalities in registration, set up national coordination mechanisms as well as strengthen national systems and processes. As a result, the registration of births and deaths is increasing across countries in the region compared with the beginning of the Decade with 26 countries registering more than 90 per cent of births by 2020.

#### **IV. Engagement with regional and subregional fora, organizations**

##### *Strengthening dialogues and collaboration on subregional policy frameworks*

92. OHCHR, UNEP, UNICEF, and ESCAP worked with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights to advance access rights in environmental decision making. In June 2021, the partners convened an expert discussion on human rights, environment and climate change focusing on (a) advancing rights-based approaches to environmental decision making including through environmental impact assessment mechanisms, and exploring best practices from other regions; (b) climate change and human rights; and (c) strengthening children’s rights to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The expert group meeting reaffirmed the important link between the environment and the full enjoyment of human rights; the need to focus on accountability; access to justice and public participation and more multi-stakeholder platforms to mainstream a rights-based approach in the ASEAN region. Importantly, the meeting agreed to prepare a regional framework on access rights in environmental decision making and to support implementing principles and policy guidance to realise children’s rights to a healthy environment.

93. With the support of members of the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience, the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action for Disaster Management for 2022–2026 was endorsed. The Coalition also provided technical support for the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its resilience objective.

94. Members of the Issue-based Coalition on Human Mobility and Urbanization contributed to the organization of a wide range of multi-stakeholder fora such as the Regional Partners Forum: Quito+5, the eighth Congress of United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific, the World Human Rights Cities Forum, the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation

<sup>28</sup> ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/8/Add.1.

<sup>29</sup> UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN-Women, WHO, World Bank, Bloomberg Philanthropies, CDC Foundation, Plan International, the Pacific Community, Vital Strategies, and World Vision.

Forum and the third Asia-Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting and the SEA of Solutions 2021 conference. A joint study with the ASEAN Secretariat helped develop policy options for joint action by the ASEAN countries, deepening the understanding of the impacts of the pandemic on people mobility, urbanization and inclusive development across the urban-rural continuum.

## **V. Conclusion and way forward**

95. As countries in Asia and the Pacific emerge from the worst of the pandemic, the need to shift to a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth model is clearer than ever. The 2030 Agenda provides the compass for countries to set in motion a sustained and sustainable recovery.

96. The concerted efforts of the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific were instrumental in making headway in critical priority areas for the region, contributing to raising ambition on climate action in the lead-up to and at COP26, increasing resilience to disasters, strengthening social protection, addressing people mobility and urbanization, and advancing human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. The Regional Collaborative Platform has mobilized expertise and resources of regional United Nations entities to support national stakeholders and the United Nations at the country level to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

97. Building on the momentum and results achieved in 2021, the Regional Collaborative Platform will continue to mobilize expertise and resources to tackle the pressing challenges of the region including raising climate ambitions, building resilience to risks, promoting sustainable economic growth and COVID-19 recovery, promoting human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment.

98. The Regional Collaborative Platform will continue to ensure that its work remains demand-oriented and will strengthen engagement and dialogue with the United Nations development system at the national level. The substantive work of the Regional Collaborative Platform remains to be informed and guided by the deliberations of Member States at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

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