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**Towards defining a transformative agenda for sustainable  
development\***

Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

*The paper discusses sustainable development and the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, including briefly discussing some of the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals which could be useful when discussing the post 2015 Development Agenda. It discusses what the five transformative shifts outlined in the Report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post 2015 Development Agenda would mean for Asian and Pacific region. It also discusses some issues related to linking the post 2015 Development Agenda with a framework for Sustainable Development Goals from an Asian and Pacific perspective. Finally it outlines some issues for the deliberation of the Ministerial Dialogue.*

\*This document has been issued without formal editing.

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### 1.0 Defining the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (“Earth Summit”) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, brought the world together based on the premise that the need to change development paths was urgent and relevant for both developed and developing countries, and for all levels of society. The Earth Summit had far reaching impacts. It established sustainable development as a universally-applicable development approach based on agreed principles<sup>1</sup> and influenced the development of civil society and political movements. It also engendered new sustainability sciences, measures of progress, and new standards for gathering national statistics. Forward-looking business began to adopt new practices as consumer demand evolved. However, despite the groundswell of awareness, it has taken twenty years, evidence that climate change is underway and the convergence of multiple food, fuel, energy and financial crises, to move sustainable development to the centre of the “mainstream” global dialogue.

2. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was the biggest international conference convened by the United Nations in history. Implementation of the agreements that came out of this historic gathering began almost immediately – including the definition of the format and organizational aspects of a new high-level political forum to replace the Commission for Sustainable Development; development of a proposal for sustainable development goals by an Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG);<sup>2</sup> development of proposals for an effective sustainable development financing strategy;<sup>3</sup> and identification of options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.<sup>4</sup>

3. These processes have converged with the processes to define the United Nations development agenda as the period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comes to a close in 2015, with the United Nations facilitating both streams.

4. The processes for developing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 will draw on consultations at the national, regional and global levels. At the national level, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) is facilitating eleven thematic consultations<sup>5</sup> in more than 60 countries.

5. At the regional level the United Nations System is joining forces to help define regional perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda and to develop implementation responses. Consultative meetings and online forums are planned by the United Nations Development Group<sup>6</sup> and ESCAP<sup>7</sup> between January and August 2014. ESCAP will convene the first regional preparatory meeting for the High-level Political Forum in 2014<sup>8</sup> and the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2015, and has already hosted several consultative events.<sup>9</sup>

6. The partnership between ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has continued to track Millennium Development Goal achievement and facilitate dialogue on the lessons learned for the new development agenda, in collaboration with other funds, programmes and specialized agencies. The 2012/2013 report is expected to make specific recommendations building on MDG progress. The ESCAP-ADB-UNDP partnership has organized four subregional consultations of key stakeholders, two focused consultations with stakeholders from least developed countries (LDCs), land-locked developing countries (LLDCs) and two expert group meetings to solicit Asia-Pacific views on a post-2015 development agenda.

7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have co-led regional consultations on education in March and February 2013, and UNESCO has organized regional expert meetings in May and November 2012 in partnership with, and involvement of, United Nations agencies including UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In March 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) organized regional consultation in Bangkok on the Post-2015 Development Agenda which focused on health related issues. Regional-level consultations aimed at major groups and other stakeholders are also being facilitated by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, among others.

8. At the global level, the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda issued its final report in May 2013. Several other reports being developed through global-level processes and mechanisms are contributing to defining the proposed final development agenda by the United Nations Secretariat. This includes the recently launched report of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network entitled "An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development," among others.

9. The Secretary-General's report on the MDGs and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 will be the basis for discussions at a High Level event during the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. The OWG is scheduled to finalize its proposals for the

sustainable development goals in 2014, after a series of deliberations supported by the United Nations Technical Support Team, major groups,<sup>10</sup> experts and other stakeholders.<sup>11</sup> Final decisions will be taken during the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. Without prejudging the final outcome of the intergovernmental negotiations, it is becoming evident that there is growing support for a unified Post-2015 development agenda with sustainable development at its core.

10. *The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015*, will be the first high-level event in the Asian and Pacific region to meet following the issue of the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in May 2013.

11. To support a timely review and assessment of the conclusions of the report, the present document provides a review of the challenges to sustainable development from an Asian and Pacific perspective, with reference to the analysis of the High-level Panel's report. Based on this review it identifies potential approaches for a United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development goals that "address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages" and which are "coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015."<sup>12</sup>

### *1.1 The Report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

12. The report of the High-level Panel, "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development" has received significant attention due to the highly consultative nature of its production and its diverse and prominent membership of 26 persons from civil society, private sector and government, including its co-Chair, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia and seven others from the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>13</sup>

13. The report proposes five transformative shifts: "Leave no one behind"; "Put sustainable development at the core"; "Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth"; "Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all"; and "Forge a new global partnership".

14. The report also proposes 12 illustrative universal goals and national targets,<sup>14</sup> as well as implementation mechanisms.<sup>15</sup>

15. Civil society and other stakeholders were quick to respond to the High-level Panel Report. Their reactions are an important gauge of the extent to which the report is aligned with experiences and hopes of a wide range of people.<sup>16</sup>

16. Among stakeholders, including governments, the international community and civil society, there was substantial support for the High-level Panel's conclusion that major "transformative shifts" are needed. Proposed goals to provide universal access to water and sanitation, and the high profile given to peace and security, good governance and transparency, as well as the emphases on addressing inequalities within and between countries and between women and men as well as promoting women's empowerment, were also welcomed by many. Civil society from the Pacific, among others, welcomed the report's coverage of climate change.

17. At the same time, many stakeholders pointed out that the implications of growing inequality and wealth disparities required greater recognition and prominence, and a dedicated, stand-alone goal.

18. Some stakeholders responded that the role of the private sector and the emphasis on economic growth and the free market had received too much attention as a solution – arguing that the historic emphasis on economic growth had not benefitted the poorest sectors, and that market-driven development had itself been largely responsible for growing inequality. The approach to the agricultural sector, it was felt, promoted large-scale agricultural production and ignored over-exploitation of fisheries and vulnerabilities of small farmers.

19. Many stakeholders emphasized that human rights should have been proposed as a framework for development. They stated that existing human rights standards and the strong links between inequality and lack of protection and promotion of human rights (for example in the case of women, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrant and low-wage workers and scheduled castes and tribes) had not been sufficiently recognized in the report. The report was also assessed as lacking due recognition of state obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights.<sup>17</sup> While the proposal of a dedicated goal for gender equality and the elimination of child marriage was welcomed, one prominent civil society organization criticized the “instrumentalisation” of women’s human rights.<sup>18</sup>

20. The omission of a link between trade and investment rules and job creation, coupled with a relative lack of implementation measures, especially of global economic governance architecture reforms, were also decried. Critics pointed to the need for a new development model based on structural change for equality and environmental sustainability.

21. Respondents also expressed concern that proposed standards and indicators are insufficient to promote meaningful changes. The proposal of the concept of a “good job” was criticized, given that the ILO Decent Work Agenda is already a well-established and rights-based approach to poverty reduction through decent work. The proportion of people living on \$1.25 per day is viewed as an inadequate, unrealistic and ineffective indicator of poverty, and targets related to environmental protection are considered too conservative. The lack of clear direction on monitoring and accountability mechanisms has also been criticized.

## *1.2 Moving from the Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development*

22. It is generally agreed that the MDGs played a key role in maintaining a focus on human welfare and the need for “development results with time bound targets” at a time when efficiency, competitiveness and economic growth were prioritized and aid effectiveness was being questioned.<sup>19</sup>

*“We, heads of state and Government are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want”*

United Nations Millennium Declaration

23. However, the MDG framework has been criticized for the ‘missing targets’ including human rights and governance, and its failure to capture international human rights elements which are pertinent to sustainable development.<sup>20</sup> The coverage of environmental issues has also been identified as a key gap.

24. The “goal by goal” fostered silo approaches to implementation, leaving the tradeoffs between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development largely unaddressed. Thus, poverty was reduced while carbon emissions continued to rise, and income inequalities widened. As a result, even if each one of the MDGs had been fully achieved, sustainable development would still be a long way away.

25. The “goal by goal” silo approach also ignored synergies among various goals. Instead, it created competitions among implementation agencies for funds which has resulted in waste and inefficiency. Moreover, pre-occupation with quantitative targets led to the neglect of broader qualitative issues such as inequality and eradication of poverty and hunger, not just halve their rates.

26. As 2015 approaches, successive joint assessments by ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank and the UNDP show that there have been important areas of success with regard to the MDGs in the Asia-Pacific region, namely that both the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 per day and the proportion of people living without access to safe drinking water have been more than halved. In addition, gender parity in primary and secondary education has been achieved and the prevalence of HIV infection has begun to decline. These represent important areas of progress that have improved standards of living and opportunities for progress in all parts of the region.

27. A picture of a prosperous and economically-dynamic region that is playing an increasingly important role in the global economy, with a rising middle class and declining poverty rates, contrasts with the significant deprivation that still exists – both a symptom and cause of persistent and widening inequality in relation to income and non-income dimensions of poverty.

28. More than 1.68 billion people are living on less than \$2 per day. During 2011 there were around 3 million deaths of children under five and 18 per cent of people in South Asia are undernourished, with particularly high levels of under-nutrition among women. More than 21 million women across the region give birth every year without the support of a skilled attendant.<sup>21</sup> More than 1.8 billion people lack access to improved sanitation.

29. There are significant shortcomings in relation to MDG achievement on health, in particular health of women and children, and access to sanitation. Hunger persists and progress is slow on enrollment and completion of primary education, as well as in reaching the last grade. There are mixed and uneven levels of achievement among subregions and among groups of countries (see Box 1).

30. To some extent the shortcomings in MDG achievements can be attributed to the failure of the development partners to fulfill their commitments, especially in relation to Goal 8, aimed to establish more conducive conditions of international cooperation, generate adequate resources, create new opportunities, and help build the capacities and skills needed to deliver on the first seven MDGs. For example, in 2010 the proportion of goods admitted to developed country markets duty free from Asia-Pacific LDCs was only 69 per cent. Although the region has 66% of the world’s poor, it received only about 20% of the total aid allocation in 2008-2010.

31. Moreover, the weaknesses in global economic governance architecture which contributed to financial and economic crises as well as commodity, especially energy and food, price volatility caused significant setbacks to MDG achievements. For example, ESCAP estimates show that in 2010, high food prices kept 19.4 million people in poverty in the region, who

otherwise would have been out of poverty. A World Bank study finds that the poverty rate in Korea jumped from 10 per cent to around 19 per cent immediately after the 1997 Asian financial crisis. In the case of Indonesia, the poverty rate increased from around 17 per cent to about 38 per cent.<sup>22</sup> The IMF estimates that every one per cent contraction in developing countries GDP leads to an increase in poverty of two per cent.<sup>23</sup> Another study shows that the average poverty impact of a crisis at a seven per cent increase in the poverty headcount per country.<sup>24</sup>

32. The persistence of deprivation and shortcomings on MDG achievement reflects widening inequalities in the region related to jobless growth, persistent gender inequality, growing numbers of working poor (in particular women), diminishing access to resources critical for rural livelihoods and rural urban gaps in relation to income and access to basic services, such as education and health.

33. Business-as-usual economic growth can no longer be relied upon to play its traditional role in promoting socio-economic progress, and it will become increasingly difficult to close even the most basic of developing gaps unless these are prioritized.

34. The growing influence of globalized markets on development outcomes increases incentives to prioritize short-term gains and private benefits over long-term development and shared prosperity. In addition, growing inequalities increase the potential for exploitative and discriminatory practices. Resource-intensive growth coupled with increasingly-evident resource constraints have increased the pressures to exploit natural capital, heightened the risk of social conflicts related to energy production and extractive industries, and created new development tradeoffs – for example between food and energy security objectives, as food-producing areas are converted to production of bio-energy crops. Lastly, the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters and the prediction of more frequent and severe climate-related extreme weather events, sea level rise and other dimensions of climate change will continue to expose the region to significant economic and human loss, and to development setbacks.

#### **Box 1. Progress and shortcomings on MDG achievement**

The region's LDCs have done well on poverty reduction, and they are early achievers in six indicators and on track in another three. On the other hand, the progress of the region's 13 LDCs has been slow or non-existent on 11 of 21 indicators.

A comparison of the indicators that are on track to achieving the Millennium Development Goals among the subregions of Asia and the Pacific based on relevant literature shows the following: (1) South-East Asian countries are on track or are considered early achievers with respect to the largest number of indicators (14 of the 21 indicators); (2) North and Central Asia is on track with respect to 12 indicators, slow in five, and regressing or making no progress in one; (3) South Asia is on track with respect to 11 indicators and slow with respect to 10 indicators; and (4) East and North-East Asia has made progress in primary education, gender empowerment and health, but has regressed in meeting environmental goals.

Although data limitations seriously hamper monitoring progress in the Pacific subregion, the available data show that the Pacific islands are early achievers or on track on five out of the 16 indicators: gender equality in tertiary education, HIV prevalence, tuberculosis incidence, protected areas and carbon dioxide emissions. The subregion is struggling to make progress in reducing poverty as measured by national poverty lines and environmental sustainability.

See ESCAP, ADB and UNDP (2012). *Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Report 2011/12: Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs, Closing Gaps in Health and Nutrition Outcomes* (United Nations, Bangkok).

35. These trends indicate the need for a fundamental change in development paradigm. Economic growth strategies aimed at maximizing GDP growth based on industrialization as a way to improve material living standards have found success in Asia and the Pacific region and have benefited social progress – but at great cost and, in many cases, based on exploiting the very basis for a sustainable future – people and nature.

## **2.0 Transformative shifts recommended by the High-level Panel – from an Asia-Pacific perspective**

36. The Asian and Pacific region faces the convergence of multiple development challenges: persistent poverty, widening income gaps, gender and other inequalities, lack of decent work, vulnerable employment and jobless growth, persistent hunger, food insecurity and rising and volatile food, resource and energy prices.<sup>25</sup> Deficits in critical infrastructure coupled with rapid urbanization, water constraints and water pollution and energy insecurity and lack of access to basic services underlie the pervasive unmet needs that hinder progress for society as a whole.

37. Human and economic insecurity related to these development challenges is being compounded by devastating natural disasters, climate change and the absence of adequate and comprehensive social protection measures. At the same time, resource-intensive growth patterns coupled with resource constraints and climate change are creating conditions under which social conflict and economic insecurity further threaten future progress.

38. Subregional consultations held by ESCAP, ADB and UNDP on issues that were felt important to defining a post-2015 development agenda showed consensus across subregions around equitable and quality education and lifelong learning, eradication of income poverty, tackling rising inequality, accountable and responsive government, universal health care, universal access to safe water and sanitation, universal social protection, decent and productive jobs and environmental protection.

39. The Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes (RIM) Meeting highlighted the need for poverty reduction based on a sustainable and equitable development agenda.<sup>26</sup> Considering the challenges and threats to human and economic security, resource and carbon-intensive, environmentally-damaging and socially-inequitable development path should be replaced by strengthened resilience, more inclusive, equitable resource-efficient development paths towards shared prosperity.

40. One of the ways to achieve this is to reform the current “vicious cycle” created by a focus on expanding the size of the economy while exploiting human and natural capital, leading to depletion of the very basis for prosperity and the pursuit of further growth. Instead, a “virtuous cycle” driven by investment in people and nature is needed, based on the understanding that economic growth is a means to achieve human development, rather an end, in and of itself. Achieving sustainable development will depend on being able to transform tradeoffs between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development into synergies,<sup>27</sup> while placing people at the centre of development.

41. It implies a shift from a focus on quantity of economic growth to a focus on the quality of growth in its economic, social and environmental dimensions. Changing the decision-making horizon from the short term to the long term is a requirement for replacing an exploitative

development model with an investment-focused approach that is incentivized by societal and environmental value and respect for human rights as called for by the Millennium Declaration,<sup>28</sup> rather than by market prices.

42. The following sections examine each of the transformative shifts proposed by the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda from an Asia-Pacific perspective.

### 2.1 *Leave no one behind*

43. The High-level Panel's report presents the vision of a future in which "neither income, nor gender, nor ethnicity, nor disability, nor geography, will determine whether people live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely or whether her child has a fair chance in life" and affirms that "the new agenda must tackle the causes of poverty, exclusion and inequality." It goes on to identify access to basic infrastructure and services, access to resources, and entrepreneurship, participation in governance and investment, and equality as among the key responses. It stresses that these "are issues of basic social justice, and a matter of respect for universal human rights," and reiterates the principles of the Millennium Declaration<sup>29</sup> and of the "Future We Want."<sup>30</sup>

44. For Asia and the Pacific, "leaving no-one behind" means ensuring access to basic services, including access to energy, water and sanitation, health, education and social protection and promoting, protecting and fulfilling agreed commitments regarding human rights, including eliminating discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Investments in people are needed to build resilience and reduce vulnerability and to enable the following critical transformations:

46. ***Empowerment and enforcement of the rights of those marginalized by societal, structural and institutionalized discrimination, in particular women and girls.*** Those affected by marginalization and discrimination include women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, sexual, ethnic and religious minorities, migrants, and those living with HIV. All of the above-mentioned specific groups find particular challenges when they intersect with disability. Persons with disabilities are among the most excluded; particularly when it comes to employment. Universal provision of free and compulsory primary education for all and equal opportunities to participate in quality learning is key for reducing and eliminating disparities associated with gender, poverty, disability, ethnicity, geography and other factors. Elimination of violence against women and girls requires targeted action. Research shows that gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, including access to land and other assets, can have a catalytic effect on the achievement of sustained peace, development, human rights and sound relationships between the environment and human populations and that MDG achievement has been contingent on gender equality and empowering women and girls.<sup>31</sup>

47. Gender inequality in Asian labour markets is significant both in terms of the distribution between formal and informal employment and within the formal and informal economy. Persistent gender pay gaps, as well as the lack of recognition for the contribution of unpaid work by women to economic and social development have multiple development implications. Respect for the internationally recognized rights of indigenous people as traditional managers of land needs greater attention in this ethnically diverse region. Growing numbers of environmental and climate "refugees" in the region, are displaced either internally, or across borders by environmental changes and severe climate-related extreme weather events and other types of

natural disasters that have impacted on livelihoods, diminished access to resources, and destroyed communities. Asia and the Pacific is home to some of the world's largest refugee populations. The region holds almost 30 per cent — or some 9.5 million people of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Protection is fragile; very few countries in the region have acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention.<sup>32</sup>

48. Marginalized groups are often without a legal identity, do not exist under the law and face significant challenges accessing basic services such as education, healthcare and social protection. Without a registered birth and civil identity, they are excluded from empowering activities, including owning property or a business, opening a bank account, and applying for credit. They will be unable to participate in political processes, especially voting. The High-level Panel recognized this fact in its proposed target of “Provide free and universal legal identity, such as birth registration”. A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system is a core requirement for delivering the basic services needed to transform the futures of marginalized groups and to protect the rights of individuals.

**45. *Access to infrastructure through inclusive planning, technology, financing and governance models that promote inclusion, resource efficiency and community empowerment.***

Rural populations and persons with disabilities face multiple deprivations in relation to basic infrastructure, in particular relating to water, sanitation, access to energy and accessible transport. Women and girls often experience reduced opportunities for education, greater health risks and extra work burdens due to lack of access to clean, affordable energy, water and sanitation. The close relationship between access to energy and advances in human development justifies the high priority given to securing sustainable energy in the High-level Panel report. More than 61 per cent of the world's total slum-dwelling population, or 506 million people are from the Asia-Pacific region, a situation linked to unsustainably high urbanization rates. Another billion people will become city dwellers by 2040.<sup>33</sup> At the same time, meeting the demands of an increasingly urban and affluent population with changing lifestyles and consumption patterns will stretch existing environmental resources beyond planetary boundaries, unless across-the-board efforts are made to increase resource-efficiency.

49. ***A living wage and decent work*** - The ILO estimates that more than 1 billion workers in Asia and the Pacific were in vulnerable employment in 2011, comprising more than 65 per cent of the global vulnerable employment and almost half of the region's workforce in the region as a whole and more than 77 per cent in South Asia as a whole. The number of workers in vulnerable employment has increased in South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific during the period 2000-2011. During the global financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, the number of people in vulnerable employment increased by 12 and by about six million in both South-East Asia and the Pacific.<sup>34</sup> Those affected are disproportionately women and youth, and increasingly, migrants.

50. Another impact of the global financial crisis is the substantial increase in unemployment, in particular, unemployment was substantially higher among youth and persons with disabilities. During the period 2007-2011, the youth unemployment rate increased in Asia and the Pacific, reversing earlier favourable trends. At the end of 2012, there were an estimated 74.6 million unemployed young people globally, of which about 47.4 per cent were from the Asia-Pacific region. In 2012, the youth unemployment rate stood at 13.7 per cent in both South-East Asia and the Pacific, 9.8 per cent in South Asia and 9.3 per cent in East Asia.<sup>35</sup> These groups of people faces tremendous economic insecurity, including related to rising and volatile food and energy prices.

46. ***Universal access to health care*** - There are widening inequalities in terms of health and gender-related MDG achievement both within and among countries, particularly related in relation to underweight children, under-five mortality, maternal mortality, persons with disabilities and tuberculosis (TB) incidence as well as due to rising TB and HIV incidence. Public health spending shortcomings are only part of the picture. Other important factors are the critical need to improve access to basic infrastructure, including water and sanitation; securing the physical health and social protection of both parents equally; and the need to invest in education and empowerment of women. The prevalence of non-communicable diseases usually associated with rising incomes and changing lifestyles is also rising in low-income countries. While governments retreat from their traditional role of public service providers and leave this to the private sector, public services can become inaccessible to the most vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, rural populations and indigenous groups due to both stigma and cost implications.

47. ***Universal access to quality education and lifelong learning for children, youth and adults at all levels of education.*** While considerable progress has been made in primary school enrollment in the region, there are persistent disparities among and within countries in access to, equity in and the quality of education. Trends show that these disparities are widening, compounded by a diversity of challenges in the region such as demographic changes, increasing migration, conflicts and natural disasters. Furthermore, the Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of illiterate adults among all regions in the world, and concerns are rising for the low quality of education and limited access to post-basic education and skills development in nearly every country.

48. The United Nations Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI), launched in September 2012, is a clear expression of the fact that education is not simply a moral imperative; it is the single best investment nations can make to build prosperous, healthy and equitable societies. Regional forums have agreed that education is a fundamental right and a key lever for inclusive and sustainable development, and proposed that equitable quality education and lifelong learning should be guaranteed for all in Asia and the Pacific to support social cohesion and economic growth. Education for sustainable development (ESD) is also critical. In "The Future We Want," member States agree "to promote education for sustainable development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development."<sup>36</sup> ESD should go beyond basic education to encompass a comprehensive education approach in life-long learning at all levels.

51. ***Empowerment and security for small farmers - secure land use rights, finance for sustainable agriculture practices and trade arrangements that support their right to earn a livelihood.*** The recommendations of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development have addressed many concerns related to the challenge of producing food so that there is "sufficient nourishment for people at home, decent livelihoods for farmers and rural agricultural workers, and the sustainable use of land and natural resources."<sup>37</sup> Small farmers are struggling to adapt to the impacts of climate changes, monopolistic corporate practice, diminishing access to land and land "grabs", increasing costs of agricultural inputs and related debt, the effects of pollution and related health problems, degraded lands, and trade and intellectual property regimes that negatively impact their livelihoods.

52. Farmer suicides are a well-known phenomenon in India, but have also been reported in Australia and China. In addition, the agriculture sector has been severely affected by declines in public investment. In Asia and the Pacific, total public spending in agriculture fell from 14.8 per cent in 1980 to 7.4 per cent of total public spending in 2004.<sup>37</sup> The decline in public investment

in agriculture has not only affected food security, but also has contributed to widening income inequality, especially between urban and rural areas. The long term neglect of agriculture as well as adverse terms of trade has increased the vulnerability of the region to global food price shocks and volatility since 2006.

53. Reversing the situation for these disadvantaged groups, found in both developed and developing countries, is within reach with far-sighted leadership a clear focus on human rights, meaningful participation and community empowerment and innovative investment strategies and partnerships.

54. Leaving no one behind also requires specific legislative support. For example, all of the challenges faced by the above mentioned groups are heightened for those individuals who concurrently are disabled. The principles and guidance of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is an example of already-agreed commitments to human rights that would provide a substantive foundation for an inclusive development agenda.

55. Success stories point to the value of community-based approaches coupled with specific participation for engaging people in reaching the most excluded and disadvantaged. From the region, success stories include: pro-poor, public-private partnership projects for energy and water services provision that have used decentralized approaches and strongly involved communities in expanding access to these vital services and created income-earning opportunities; the growth of employment and entrepreneurship associated with the deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in rural areas across the region that has provided an enabling environment to empower rural communities, in particular women, to simultaneously improve their incomes, quality of life and reduce environmental pressure; participatory mapping of areas threatened by extractive industries involving indigenous peoples; drafting of principles on responsible agricultural investment that has engaged civil society in the Philippines.<sup>38</sup>

56. Countries with special needs, including fragile states emerging from conflict situations, require particular attention and investment, as highlighted by the *International Conference on the post-2015 Development Agenda*, held in Dili, Timor-Leste on 26-28 February 2013.<sup>39</sup>

*"development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom."*

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 41/128 Declaration on the Right to Development, 4 December 1986

## 2.2 Put sustainable development at the core

57. The High-level Panel's report highlights the failure to integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability and stresses the need for a new agenda that "sets out the core elements of sustainable lifestyles that can work for all", including key activities relating

to generation and consumption of energy, travel and transportation of goods, use of water and agriculture. It advocates green economy policies as a way to boost sustainable production, including the right market incentives, the use of global standards to guide foreign investments, and identifies civil society and shareholders roles as watchdogs.

58. The Secretary General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, composed of 22 high-level members from 22 different countries and co-chaired by the President of Finland and the President of South Africa, underlined that by 2030, the world would need at least 50 per cent more food, 45 per cent more energy and 30 per cent more water.<sup>40</sup> It concluded, unequivocally, that the current development model is unsustainable. Increasingly-evident resource constraints and scientific research show that several planetary boundaries, such as relating to climate change and biodiversity, have already been exceeded.

59. Achieving sustainable development means meeting the legitimate aspirations of both current and future generations to an adequate standard<sup>41</sup> of living within existing resource constraints. A change of paradigm in key sectors such as energy, agricultural production and fisheries systems, water resources management and urban development will be essential to invest in meeting the most basic needs of people, in an equitable way that promotes resource efficiency. Food security remains a critical concern, with agrarian reform and a focus on eco-efficient, rather than intensive modes of agricultural production,<sup>42</sup> and concepts of "food sovereignty",<sup>43</sup> seen as important dimensions of an integrated solution.

60. Investment in meeting both energy and food needs in a sustainable way is particularly important for the Asian and Pacific region. The coupling of energy and food prices due to the rising energy intensity of the agricultural sector, as well as rising costs of energy and other agricultural inputs places a heavy burden on the poorest people – for whom food security and access to energy decline as governments seek to reduce energy subsidies without appropriate mitigation measures, and as wages share of gross domestic product (GDP) declines and the percentage of household income spent on food rises, contributing to the creation of a poverty trap.

61. Estimates by ESCAP published in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011* show that high food prices in 2010 kept an additional 19.4 million in poverty in the region. This comprised 15.6 million who would otherwise have emerged from poverty and 3.8 million who were pushed below the poverty line.

62. Reducing poverty and hunger and increasing access to basic services such as education and health in the long term will depend on realigning the economy to synergize economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Development must be driven by substantially increased investments in people and nature rather than by the exploitation of human and natural capital that erodes the basis for creating long-term, inclusive social progress and shared prosperity.

### ***A focus on investment in people***

63. Investment in "leaving no one behind," as discussed in the previous section, is a fundamental requirement of sustainable development. For example, specific programmes and government leadership can ensure that investment in infrastructure expands access to basic services, in particular energy. In areas such as housing, urban development, transportation, health and education, social and environmental considerations should inform planning. Attention should also be given to engaging the participation of women, youth, older persons and other population groups in shifting towards a more sustainable development paradigm.

64. The 2013 edition of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific concludes that the public investment required in ten Asia-Pacific countries to implement a package of key social policies, such as employment guarantee, income support for older persons and persons with disabilities, basic education for all, basic healthcare for all and universal access to modern forms of energy by 2030, is within financial reach of most countries, although countries with special needs and least developed countries would also need global partnership and development cooperation.

65. The investment strategy is also found to be consistent with both fiscal sustainability and price stability, suggesting that there is not necessarily a tradeoff between economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability.

66. Moving beyond closing basic development gaps, placing sustainable development at the core requires investment in people as a basis for other transformative shifts. Access to quality education is critical for creating a culture of respect for the environment, human rights and peace, for addressing emerging development challenges.

67. In addition to providing universal access to education, ensuring that investments in education support wider society goals requires curricular and didactic review for fostering innovation and creativity. Formulation of the post-2015 development agenda requires reflection on the vision of education – education empowers children youth and adults with the skills, attitudes and values needed to become active participants in the transformation of their societies. Building on the achievements of the education for sustainable development agenda, a focus on “educating for a sustainable future” would imply a comprehensive educational approach in life-long learning at all levels. Government leadership is needed – as private sector investment in the education sector grows, curriculum and education standards can be influenced by market needs rather than development opportunities and challenges.

68. In April 2013 UNESCO organized a regional meeting to reflect on the important role of science, technology and innovation .<sup>44</sup> The meeting recognized that sustainable solutions, whether at the global, regional or country level, require new advances in scientific knowledge, discoveries, creativity and innovation. Sustainability science promotes problem-driven cross-disciplinary approaches to advance understanding of human-environment interactions and systems, and of how those interactions affect the overarching challenge of sustainability. The field draws from multiple disciplines of the natural, social, medical and engineering sciences, from the professions, and from practical field experience in business, government, and civil society. The meeting further agreed that the Asia-Pacific region could take a lead in promoting ‘policy relevant science and science relevant policy’ to make evidence based national transformations required for sustainable development.

***From resource intensive growth to sustainable consumption and production and investment in nature***

69. Resource constraints, growing vulnerability to rising and volatile commodity prices and climate change call for a re-examination of resource- and carbon-intensive growth strategies. Transformation of resource-intensive economic growth trajectories to sustainable consumption and production patterns is also critical for the region’s economies and its people.

70. Joint assessment by ESCAP, ADB and UNEP shows that between 1995 and 2005, Asian and Pacific consumption of four main types of materials – biomass, fossil fuels, metal ores/industrial minerals and construction minerals – grew by 50 per cent, from 23.6 billion tons to

around 35.3 billion tons per year. Since the mid-1990s, the region has accounted for well over half of global material use, overtaking all other regions combined.<sup>45</sup>

71. As of 2005, although the per capita use of resources is lower than the world average, the Asian and Pacific region required three times the input of resources as the rest of the world to produce one unit of GDP – based on economic activity aimed largely at producing goods for other parts of the world. Not encouragingly, material intensity in the region as a whole increased beyond 2000, reversing previous trends. If these trends continue, extractive pressures on the environment will increase even faster than the rapid rates of economic growth. Even making use of all technological potential within existing systems, efficiency gains will not be able to mitigate future growth – fundamental changes in consumption and production patterns are needed.<sup>46</sup>

72. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) reaffirmed that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production (SCP) is one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. Furthermore at Rio+20, Heads of State strengthened their commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns with the adoption of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). The 10YFP will develop, replicate and scale up SCP and resource efficiency initiatives, at national and regional levels, decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth, and thus increase the net contribution of economic activities to poverty eradication and social development.

73. One profile of the distribution of resource use between income groups emphasizes the inequalities existing across the globe in relation to the energy, carbon emissions and income, among other.<sup>47</sup> Promoting sustainable consumption and production will require broad-based policy intervention to ensure that investments in eco-efficient modes of production and consumption are economically feasible and accessible to all income levels. Policies, pricing, and financing are needed to ensure that solar, wind and other forms of renewable energy are attractive from both environmental and economic standpoints. This is required to drive the transformation of the energy system is needed to “improve the living standards of people with equity and environmental sustainability.”<sup>48</sup>

74. Sustainable consumption and production is also needed to reduce pressure on key ecosystems, including those highlighted in “The future we want”– in particular oceans and seas, forests and mountain ecosystems. Investing in the protection of these ecosystems, along with others such as wetlands, are critical for food security, biodiversity protection and the production of ecosystem services<sup>49</sup> that underpin societies and economies.

75. Water remains a critical concern. The Asian and Pacific region has the largest share of global renewable freshwater resources, but the lowest availability of water per capita.<sup>50</sup> The World Economic Forum report notes the water-food-energy nexus as being one of the three important clusters of risks that have recently emerged, and points to resource security issues (causing extreme volatility and sustained increases over the long run in energy and commodity prices) as being one of the five “risks to watch.”<sup>51</sup> The Chiang Mai Declaration of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in May 2013, agreed to, inter-alia, “Accelerate the process of incorporating integrated water resources planning and management, as appropriate, in the framework of the national socio-economic development planning process while supporting the best practices and traditional treatment of water resources” and to “enhance regional and international cooperation on sharing, exchange and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge, as well as best practices, related to integrated water resources management.”<sup>52</sup>

### ***A virtuous cycle of investment in people and planet***

76. Rising prices for food, energy, minerals and fossil fuels is an increasing burden on developing country budgets – Net energy imports as a percentage of GDP have more than doubled between 2000 and 2008 in countries like Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines and India. In countries like Bangladesh, China, Nepal and Sri Lanka, the costs have almost tripled as a percentage of GDP – rising to over 20 per cent of GDP in Mongolia and Sri Lanka.

77. More efficient and equitable use of resources, mitigating the impacts of natural disasters, and stemming the rising, but hidden, economic and social costs of pollution, traffic and other symptoms of unsustainable development provides fiscal space for redirecting expenditure towards investment in people. Structural changes, including ensuring that tax structures are not regressive and are pro-poor, as well as shifting taxes from employment and income (social “goods”) to inefficient resource consumption (environmental “bads”), can help to create a virtuous cycle of investment in people and in nature. Budgets should be gender-responsive.

78. While the market will play a key role in determining economic outcomes, market solutions will not emerge automatically. Addressing the “time gap” between short-term costs and long-term benefits of green investments will require specific financing instruments, while addressing the “price gap” between market prices and the economic value of ecosystem goods and services will require regulatory actions as well as reform of the tax structure. Such measures are needed to support the development, transfer and wide uptake of eco-efficient technologies that is essential for developing countries in particular.

### ***Positive examples from the region***

79. Some countries in the region are already moving beyond the GDP-growth paradigm, and many are taking a closer look at the sustainability of their production activities. The challenges and approaches are different for each country and for each sector, as illustrated by the range of initiatives by member states. Acknowledging that economic growth “has come at considerable economic cost and has not benefited to all segments of the population”,<sup>53</sup> Malaysia has developed a “New Economic Model” targeting a high income economy that is “both inclusive and sustainable.”<sup>54</sup> Thailand integrates low carbon concepts and the philosophy of “sufficiency economy” into its 11th Five-year Plan, while India is incorporating ecological values into national accounts and Bhutan has used Gross National Happiness measures as a basis for planning.

80. Several other governments are making strategic links between economic, social and environmental goals with a focus on resource constraints and investment in nature. Countries such as China (with resource and energy efficiency targets featured prominently in both its Eleventh and Twelfth Five-Year National Social and Economic Development Plans), and Kazakhstan (with its 2013 Concept for transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Green Economy) have taken steps to promote environmentally-sustainable growth. Cambodia developed a National Green Growth Roadmap in 2010 and the Republic of Korea launched a National Green Growth Strategy in 2008, complemented by a five-year midterm plan and implemented by a coordinating institution and a Framework Act.

81. Lessons can be learned from these efforts, and other practical experiences in the region, such as Indonesia’s, energy subsidy reforms that used cost savings towards targeted cash transfers

to those who would be most affected by reducing state subsidies.<sup>55</sup> Regional and cross-regional initiatives such as the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, initiated by the Government of Kazakhstan at the 6th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, Astana, 2010), presented at the 7th Pan-European Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (UNECE, Astana, 2011) and recognized in "the future we want", can help to share these and other experiences.<sup>56</sup>

### 2.3 *Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth*

82. The High-level Panel's report calls for "a quantum leap forward in economic opportunities and a profound economic transformation to end extreme poverty and improve livelihoods." It insists on commitment to rapid, equitable growth that is "sustained, long-term, inclusive growth that can overcome the challenges of unemployment ... resource scarcity and adaptation to climate change". It stresses a financially-stable global economy that promotes stable, long-term financial investment and open, fair and development-friendly trade.

83. The focus on jobs, social justice and the need to address environmental constraints is particularly appropriate for the Asian and Pacific region. The "trickle down" approach to reducing poverty is now widely recognized as having limits, as the link between development outcomes and growth weakens in a large proportion of countries. The *Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System*<sup>57</sup> concluded that economic theories played a role in the financial crisis and called for policies framed within a set of goals that are commensurate with a broad view of social justice and social solidarity, paying particular attention to the well-being of the developing countries and the limits imposed by the environment.

84. Since the 1990s, economic growth in Asia and the Pacific has not been inclusive. Income inequality widened in 11 of the 28 economies with comparable data<sup>58</sup> and rose in Asian and Pacific countries representing more than 80 per cent of the regional population.<sup>59</sup> The Gini coefficient of developing Asia as a single unit, went from 39 in the early 1990s to 46 in the late 2000s. Of 36 economies with available data in 2000s, the Gini coefficient of 13 of them was at or greater than 40, which is the commonly accepted threshold for high inequality.<sup>60</sup>

85. Action on poverty alleviation requires a closer look at the distribution of poverty across the region. In Asia, 610 million out of 750 million people living with less than US\$1 per day are living in a middle income country,<sup>61</sup> and rural-urban disparities explain a large part of national level income gaps. At the same time, China and India together account for 77 per cent (respectively 57 and 2 per cent) of total regional extreme poverty.<sup>62</sup>

86. The growing inequalities within countries and the evolving dimensions of poverty are the result of several factors. The neoliberal approach to reform in the 1980s and 1990s fostered market and financial globalization without proper regard for sequencing and prudent regulation, leading to a rapid rise in speculative activities fuelled by short-term capital flows. Large-scale privatization without adequate competition regulation led to the rise in business oligarchies. At the same time, corruption and governance failures have facilitated business practices that have not been in full alignment with societal interests. The increasing influence of the private sector and role in providing basic services has become a doubled-edged sword with expanding investment opportunities co-existing with greater insecurity and vulnerability.

#### ***From low wages and vulnerable employment to decent work***

87. The argument that low wages are necessary to attract foreign direct investment and promote economic competitiveness and growth to reduce poverty has lost substantial credibility. Low wages contribute to low aggregate demand and can stifle economic growth. Growth has slowed, economies are slow to recover and jobless growth is now evident, with employment intensity of growth declining in many countries of South-East Asia in particular.<sup>63</sup> Informality is pervasive and rising, and social protection is still limited.

88. A private sector operating in globalizing and increasingly price-competitive markets, rising prices of energy and other inputs, increasingly unequal wages and erosion of workers access to collective bargaining mechanisms, mean that wages are too low for many workers to escape poverty. Around 670 million workers in Asia live on less than US\$2 a day (322 million below US\$1.25).<sup>64</sup> This has impeded the development of domestic markets and exposed countries to the weaker external demand during the ongoing global slowdown. Income insecurity and very low wages hinders economic growth and investment in human capital. Decent jobs, for men and women alike as well as young people, would enable them to have access to social protection, spend more and invest in their future.

89. Low market incentives for corporate social responsibility, the asymmetries in globalization<sup>65</sup> and the priority given to capital returns over wages have, as a consequence, simultaneously increased inequality, depressed aggregate demand, transferred financial resources from poor households with a higher propensity to spend, to higher income households with higher savings rates who invest heavily in speculative activities in the financial and real estate sectors, ultimately leading to the financial crisis.<sup>66</sup> The end result is that the capacity of the economy to deliver inclusive development has been eroded.<sup>67</sup>

***A financial sector and capital markets that support the growth of a productive and inclusive economy***

90. Financial sector and capital markets are critical for shaping economic activity. However, there is an increasing disconnect between the financial sector and positive development and growth outcomes for all. Excess liquidity pumped into the economic system continues to pursue short-term profit rather than long-term growth, creating asset bubbles, rather than being invested in economic activity that supports sustained productive employment growth and inclusive development. As a result, for example, housing is created not for those who need it but for those who seek capital returns – and impacts at the local level are seen in the excess of housing units in some areas, and slums in other areas.<sup>68</sup>

91. Investors at all levels, including governments, now have access to investment opportunities provided by a globalizing financial sector. The increased flow of volatile capital to the region following monetary easing in developed countries, has increased the vulnerability of the region to financial shocks. Coupled with lack of transparency in the financial sector, illicit financial flows and the loss of funds from developing countries (both legal and illegal), decrease the availability of capital for entrepreneurship and long-term investment in productive economic activity.

92. Speculation in commodity and energy markets have been a key factor in the rising and volatile commodity prices that have entrenched and expanded poverty in the region. Urgent action is needed to address debt-driven and resource-intensive consumption and the expansion of speculative investments that lie at the nexus of jobless growth, financial insecurity and climate crisis.<sup>69</sup>

*“It would be wrong and irresponsible to only seek quick fixes for this current crisis and ignore the very real problems facing the global economy and society, including the climate crisis, the energy crisis, the growth in inequality in most countries around the world, the persistence of poverty in many places, and the deficiencies in governance and accountability, especially within international organizations.”*

Report of the Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System, September 21, 2009

93. The “financialization” of nature, based on the risk of environmental degradation and future constraints such as water is now evoking concern regarding the potential impacts on access to resources and the ecosystem services<sup>70</sup> provided by nature in the future.<sup>71</sup>

#### 2.4 *Building peace and effective, open and accountable public institutions*

94. The High-level Panel’s report identified freedom from conflict and violence as “the most fundamental human entitlement, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies.” It also stresses government transparency, accountability and responsiveness, the importance of personal security, and access to justice, inter-alia. It calls for “a fundamental shift to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of well-being, not an optional extra.” Sound institutions are seen as central to the transformations advocated. The legal environment to form and join civil society organizations is a critical element of governance reform. Institutions at the global level are identified as important for addressing corruption, money laundering, tax evasion and aggressive avoidance and other socially undesirable and criminal activity.

95. Many Asian and Pacific developing countries face high population densities, growing socio-economic vulnerability, and declining access to resources by rural populations. In several places there are high levels of corruption; stakeholders are insufficiently involved in inclusive policy formulation, investment decisions are made without open review, and the corporate sector (distinguishing between the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and large corporations and multinationals) increasingly influence government policy without appropriate oversight and regulation, in particular in relation to the delivery of public services and extractive industries. Implementing existing agreements related to human rights and eliminating gender-based and other forms of inequality as well as environmental protection requires greater institutional capacity and accountability. Institutional capacity to deal with critical market failures is weak, but is also more important than ever.

96. Institutional reforms to redress all forms of inequalities, including gender inequality, corruption and threats to natural capital are urgent from the standpoint of securing the agreed human rights and rights to development, but also from the standpoint of creating much needed fiscal space for governments to invest in sustainable development. The economic losses associated with gender inequalities have been estimated to be as high as \$47 billion per year for Asia due to the gap in employment rates between men and women – an indicator of the forgone potential for further investment in people.<sup>72</sup> The World Bank has estimated that more than a decade ago, bribes paid worldwide in both rich and developing countries annually amounted to US\$1 trillion annually, not including embezzlement of public funds or theft of public assets.<sup>73</sup> The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that the value of logging traded out of East Asia and the Pacific that was unlicensed is worth \$17 billion, making up to 30 to 40 per cent

of all timber and wood products exported and representing a substantial loss for government coffers.<sup>74</sup>

97. The Asia-Pacific region has at times been the geopolitical centre of the struggle for world power. While the region benefited from the peace dividend associated with the Viet Nam War and the Cold War, there still have been flashpoints that have impacted development. It is also important to note that at least three nuclear powers are located in the region. Resource-intensive growth paths may lead to clashes over resource-rich areas which are claimed by different parties.<sup>75</sup>

98. There are also insurgencies and internal conflicts. The Asia-Pacific region is home to a large number of long-term, internal conflicts. As a recent report by the Asian Foundation identifies subnational conflict as “the most widespread, deadly and enduring form of conflict in Asia.” It estimates that “over the past 20 years, there have been 26 subnational conflicts in South and South-East Asia, affecting half of the countries in this region” and that they have lasted on more than 40 years on average and are the most common form of armed conflict since 1955.<sup>76</sup>

99. Violent conflict is a powerful reverser of development gains and a primary cause of poverty. Even as non-combatants, women in particular also often experience sexual abuse, violence and humiliation during armed conflict. Lack of economic opportunity, inequitable resource distribution, discrimination based on disabilities, gender, religious and or ethnic divisions within society, poor governance and the mismanagement or illegal exploitation of natural resources can also cause conflict, exacerbating the unmet needs of people and reversing socioeconomic gains.

100. Governance reforms for open, effective and accountable public institutions are therefore needed in several areas, including: 1) an enabling environment for peoples’ participation and enforcing human rights, including that of women; 2) a well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics system; 3) improving the delivery of basic services; 4) creating feedback loops in the policy processes that engage the perspectives of different stakeholders and different kinds of knowledge in assessing policy impact and identifying appropriate adjustments to policy;<sup>77</sup> and 5) and increasing transparency and reducing corruption, including through e-government, and other appropriate accountability and service-delivery approaches.

101. Each area of reform requires specific institutional responses. One review of the changing role of civil society, for example, recommends democratically-constructed and open inclusive spaces and mechanisms for ongoing dialogue between public authorities and civil society to prevent misunderstanding and repression at various levels of governance.<sup>78</sup> The region is home to increasingly active and effective civil society. Key successes have included raising awareness on impending trade agreements and working closely with government to avert onerous conditions in trade agreements, deepening democratic reforms, contributing to development of agreed norms and principles in relation to agricultural investment and in cases serving as outsourced labor for overstretched governments at low or no cost.<sup>79</sup> However, civil society faces growing challenges relating to access to resources.<sup>80</sup>

102. The alignment of corporate sector actions with sustainability goals will require participation and engagement of civil society especially active and meaningful participation of the most affected groups, as well as supportive measures for those who might be negatively affected by economic transformation. The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>81</sup> could be a useful tool in aligning corporate sector actions and policies with sustainable development goals.

## 2.5 *Forging a new global partnership for people, planet and prosperity*

103. The High-level Panel's report urges "a fresh vision and framework based on our common humanity and the principles established at Rio." A new partnership, it states, "should be based on a common understanding of our shared humanity, underpinning mutual respect and mutual benefit in a shrinking world." It proposes that each priority area defined by the post-2015 agenda should be defined by dynamic partnerships. The report challenges the international community to take action on several fronts, "using new ways of working to go beyond an aid agenda and to put its own house in order."

104. The report implies a fully participatory approach. Partnerships between and among national governments, local authorities, international organizations, businesses, civil society, foundations and other philanthropists should "discuss a truly international framework of policies to achieve sustainable development", moving beyond the "MDG's orientation of state-to-state partnership to be inclusive of more players." The High-level Panel's report identifies specific responsibilities for developed countries in relation to developed country trade and agriculture practices, transfer of technologies and in ensuring the stability of the international financial system, among other areas.<sup>82</sup> Noting the cooperation involving developing countries, the report recommends more regional cooperation, development of a repository of good practices and networks of knowledge exchange.

105. Global partnerships are particularly critical for some of the most important development challenges faced by the region, including the need to rebalance trade, management of speculative flows of finance, ensuring food security and livelihoods in the agricultural sector, the vulnerability of migrants, securing appropriate financing, promoting technology transfer, and providing support for policy reform and the conditions for fair trade and related policy regimes. Many issues affecting human security, such as migration and natural disasters also require global partnership and cross-border coordination. Global partnerships below can be considered among those which are important for the region.

106. A global partnership that rebalances the global economy while ensuring policy space for development is needed. The Asian and Pacific region's relationship with the global economy is characterized by significant trade imbalances, with implications for global economic and financial stability. A global partnership is needed to correct trade imbalances and to facilitate developing country access to developed country markets, while respecting the rights of developing countries to establish policies to protect vulnerable groups and fledgling industries. Policy space for sectors that are critical for a post-2015 development agenda, including agriculture,<sup>83</sup> education, health care and the extractive industry are important targets for global agreements. Long-standing concerns regarding agricultural subsidies in developed countries remain as relevant, perhaps even more relevant, than in previous years. The paralysis around the Doha round of discussions which was intended to drive equity in trade requires further attention. Ten years after its initial failure, the global economic situation highlights the importance of global partnership to ensure long-term, shared prosperity.

107. Global partnership for incentivizing long-term investments for development and restricting speculative investment are also critical. Recommendations have included targeted debt forgiveness for developed and developing countries to reduce financial uncertainty; global agreements on foreign direct investment (FDI) "standards" and agreements on regulating both outflows and inflows of speculative capital for all countries.

108. Global partnership for effective development cooperation and engagement in fragile states can build on initiatives such as the “New deal for effective engagement in fragile states” adopted in Busan in 2011. The Dili Consensus, adopted in February 2013 reinforces the commitment of fragile states to the “New Deal.”

109. Global and regional initiatives are also needed to support the required evolutions in energy and food production systems – especially to support countries with special needs. The High-level Panel calls for a new data revolution and the establishment of a Global Partnership on Development Data to enable the recent improvements in information technology and connectivity to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development. This is also particularly relevant to the region.

110. Civil society has called for a full overhaul of the system of global economic governance,<sup>84</sup> but there is no consensus in the intergovernmental sphere on the extent of reforms required. The report of the UN Secretary-General on global economic governance<sup>85</sup> recognizes that reforming international financial and trade institutions is an important element in making global economic governance more conducive to sustainable development. It calls for a more participatory system of global economic governance through broadened and strengthened involvement of developing countries in multilateral frameworks and norm-setting. It also recommends that reforms of the governance structures of the Bretton Woods institutions should better reflect members’ relative positions in the world economy and protect the voice of the poorest members. Furthermore, the active participation of relevant non-State actors, including civil society and private sector is an important element in an effective system of global economic governance.

111. United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/289 on the United Nations and Global Economic Governance recognizes the importance of openness, fairness, and inclusiveness in the international monetary, financial and trading systems, in order to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Its recognition of the need for regularized interaction between the G20 and the United Nations system provides a basis for expanded and more effective dialogue and partnerships, although one government has expressed reservations regarding the influence of the United Nations on decisions affecting international financial institutions.<sup>86</sup> The region’s place in any reformed global economic governance architecture should be commensurate with its economic power and growing responsibility for its own fate and that of the global economy.

*“... We support the perspective, articulated most prominently by our G7+ countries, that the MDGs cannot be achieved in small, landlocked or conflict-affected states in the absence of peace, stability and the rule of law. We affirm the need for our development efforts to be underpinned by universal principles of respect for human rights, fairness, justice and peace...”*

The Dili Consensus, 28 February 2013, Dili, East Timor

### **3.0 Bringing a post-2015 development agenda together with a sustainable development goals framework**

112. There are several hurdles to be overcome by any agreement on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. For example, coming to a consensus on the kinds

of transformative shifts needed to address the root causes of inequitable, unsustainable economic growth will be difficult, especially in relation to issues related to global governance. Also, while there is support for transformative approaches, developing countries in particular still require urgent action to close the most basic of development gaps, and to address urgent challenges such as persistent hunger.

113. There is a strong expectation that a new development agenda will be an integrated development framework that recognizes the interrelationships between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Most have also demanded that the SDG framework be supported by effective means of implementation for each goal, including a new global partnership for development. Similarly, the High-level Panel report suggests that each theme be supported by appropriate partnerships.

114. While the Millennium Declaration contained many important commitments, for example relating to peace, security and disarmament, and on human rights, democracy and good governance, the Millennium Development Goal framework did not define specific goals in each area of commitment. The Dili Consensus<sup>87</sup> also notes that the MDGs “do not recognize the fundamental barriers that we [fragile states] face. Most importantly, conflict and fragility are not reflected in the MDGs, and have been fundamental obstacles to their achievement in our countries.” It has also been noted that new goals and targets should cover a wider range of important environmental sustainability topics than currently covered, and that these topics should be closely linked with socioeconomic developmental goals. In addition, it might be more effective in some cases to devise goals that target the core driving forces behind a problem rather than the problem itself.

115. Without pre-judging the outcomes of the ongoing deliberations, for Asia and the Pacific, it would be important that a new development agenda promote a shift from unsustainable and exploitative development patterns by replacing a vicious cycle of exploitation of human and natural capital with a virtuous cycle created by investment in people and planet.<sup>88</sup>

116. Specific “platforms” for transformation could be considered as one way for member governments to focus efforts around the implementation of a multi-faceted but integrated development agenda. Each “platform” could consist of a broad objective that integrates the three pillars, a set of sustainable development goals, specific implementation partnerships and unifying principles for implementation – perhaps as expressed in the Millennium declaration.

117. Sustainable development goals could include both drivers of change and targeted outcomes, as well as both quantitative and qualitative targets and indicators. Quantitative targets would be time-bound, in line with positive MDG experiences. Qualitative targets could be defined and monitored via a process of in-country social and political dialogue.

#### **4.0 From vision to action – people and partnerships for shared prosperity**

118. The High-level Panel’s report calls for global partnerships to be built around key areas of transformation, while the discussions of the open working group have featured persistent calls for specific means of implementation to be defined. Implementation responses, including multi-stakeholder partnerships can be developed in an inclusive way at appropriate levels to create awareness and disseminate information, monitor, research and assess impacts, share best practices, provide technical support, ensure finance and facilitate policy reform.

119. Resolution 67/226 of the General Assembly: *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations System* “stresses the need for the United Nations system to work consistently across its entities, funds and programmes and specialized agencies by enhancing coordination within programme countries and by building strong linkages within programme countries and between national, regional and global levels.” The resolution also invites entities of the United Nations at the regional level to “further strengthen cooperation and coordination among themselves.”<sup>89</sup>

120. Close collaboration within the UNDG can provide direct technical support to the implementation of both quantitative and qualitative targets. The Regional Coordination Mechanism can advance dialogue and the sharing of experiences and best practices to support each transformative shift at the regional and subregional levels, in collaboration with the UNDG. In addition, specific initiatives can be defined where regional cooperation will be critical – for example in the area of technology transfer and also financing, noting the substantial capacity of several regional countries in the region in these specific areas of implementation.

121. Consultation processes can be launched jointly between the RCM and the UNDG to define regional and national perspectives vis-à-vis global dialogue that could be launched in multi-lateral forums on the most difficult of issues, such as global economic governance reform. Annual preparatory events convened by regional commissions to prepare for sessions of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development could report on progress on each platform at the regional level, in an inter-agency effort that involves various stakeholders.

122. The High-level Panel’s report moves beyond looking at data and statistics as means for monitoring development results, highlighting their role as tools for peoples’ empowerment and as key inputs to development planning. New technology and improved connectivity can be harnessed to engage people as contributors of information and diverse perspectives needed to evaluate implementation efforts. Data-based assessments can be supplemented by qualitative assessments based on the on-the ground experiences in diverse socio-economic settings, to be able to assess the impact of transformations. This will be critical for effective monitoring to address some of the shortcomings of the MDGs in relation to their inability to assess the gaps within countries and between groups of people.

123. The experience of ESCAP, the ADB and UNDP in providing joint assessments on MDG achievements shows the potential for partnerships in this role. Such partnerships should be extended to strengthen inter-agency participation and support enhanced statistical capacity at the national level and stakeholder partnership in assessment activity.

## **5.0 Issues for further deliberation**

124. Defining an inclusive and effective United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and a sustainable development goal framework will require a shared vision of the transformations that will be needed – a vision that removes the tradeoffs between the three dimensions of sustainable development, creates synergies between them, and puts people at the centre of development.

125. For Asia and the Pacific, it will be critical for the framers of the post-2015 development agenda to build consensus around action to address the drivers of inequality, persistent poverty, and new and growing vulnerability while prioritizing the significant deprivation experienced by

large proportions of the region's population. Investment in people and nature can be considered as an overarching strategy for structural changes that shift towards inclusive and sustainable development.

126. There is strong agreement among governments, the international community, major groups and other stakeholders that significant change is needed on many fronts. The challenge is to move forward from these towards a global partnership that responds to the vision of the High-level Panel of "a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability."

127. The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Dialogue may wish to deliberate on the following issues:

- a. How can sustainable development be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda?
- b. How can the unique features of the Asian and Pacific region, including rapid economic growth and urbanization, widening income gaps, growing vulnerability to external shocks and climate change, food and energy security challenges and resource constraints, be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda?
- c. What are the most important transformative shifts needed from the point of view of the Asia-Pacific region?
- d. How can effective means of implementation be informed by the experiences and initiatives of the region?

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<sup>1</sup> See the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development at <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

<sup>2</sup> The OWG meets at United Nations headquarters and has a rotating membership of 70 countries on its 30 seats and involves relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work. Members from the ESCAP region on the OWG include Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Nauru, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam. ESCAP members not located in the region include France, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

<sup>3</sup> Led by an intergovernmental expert committee on sustainable development financing under the General Assembly. The report, due by 2014 should assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks and evaluation additional initiatives, with an interim report to the General Assembly before the beginning of its 68th session, as mandated by its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012. As of February 2013, the committee had not yet been formed.

<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 273 of "the future we want. The report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-seventh session (A/67/348) concluded that there is "no doubt that there is a need for a global technology facilitation mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations." It proposed an initial set of 14 lessons learned, which could serve as general guiding criteria for future deliberations on the details of such a mechanism, which was proposed to be established as part of or be under the direction of the high-level political forum. See A/67/348, paragraph 85-86.

<sup>5</sup> The thematic consultations focus on Conflict and Fragility, Education, Environmental Sustainability, Governance, Growth and employment, Health, Hunger, food and nutrition security, Inequalities, Population Dynamics, Energy, Water. See the initial report of the consultations at: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/global-conversation-begins-web.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The UN Development Group (UNDG) unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development. The group's common objective is to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Administrator of the UN Development Programme. (UNDP) chairs the UNDG. The UNDG Chair reports to the

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Secretary-General and the CEB on progress in implementing the group's work plan, and on the management of the Resident Coordinator system. The UNDG supports the Resident Coordinator system and UN country teams by providing guidance on business operations, coordination, planning and programming, and by promoting coherent and effective over-sight of country operations. See <http://www.undg.org/>.

<sup>7</sup> The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), mandated by ECOSOC in Resolution 1998/46, was established to improve coordination among the work programmes of United Nations entities at the regional level. It promotes increased cooperation and collaboration among United Nations regional entities and their development partners in addressing regional development issues. The RCM is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP as mandated by ECOSOC, to report on regional coordination of United Nations programmes in Asia and the Pacific. See <http://www.rcm-asiapacific-un.org/>.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations General Assembly 67/290 *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development* invites the regional commissions to convene annual regional meetings to contribute to work of the high level political forum on sustainable development.

<sup>9</sup> Including the Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio + 20 Outcomes. See: <http://www.unescap.org/sustainable-development/forums/RIM2013/>

<sup>10</sup> The 1992 Earth Summit recognized that sustainable development formalized people's participation in "Agenda 21", which recognizes nine sectors of society as the main channels through which citizens could organize and participate in international efforts to achieve sustainable development through the United Nations. These nine sectors (indigenous peoples, business and industry, children and youth, farmers, women, local authorities, workers and trade unions, non-governmental organizations, and scientific and technological community) are officially known as "Major Groups" See <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups.html>.

<sup>11</sup> "Other stakeholders" can be considered a catch all phrase for other sectors – e.g. think tanks. A/RES/67/290 - Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, inter-alia "Encourages the major groups identified in Agenda 21 and other stakeholders, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups and other stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development, to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum and for actions derived from that participation at the global, regional and national levels, in a way that ensures effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization;"

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly Resolution 66/288 *The Future We Want*.

<sup>13</sup> Other Asia-Pacific members are Yinfang Wang of China, Abhijit Banerjee of India, Naoto Kan of Japan, Sung Hwan Kim of the Republic of Korea, Elvira Nabiullina of the Russian Federation, Emilia Pires of Timor Leste and Kadir Topbaş of Turkey. See announcement of the establishment of the High Level Panel at <http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/PRpost2015.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> The 12 Goals were: End Poverty; empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality; Provide Quality Education and Lifelong learning; Ensure healthy Lives; Ensure Food Security and good Nutrition; Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation; Secure Sustainable Energy; Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth; Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably; Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions; Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies; and Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance

<sup>15</sup> See the report of the High Level Panel at <http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>.

<sup>16</sup> Stakeholder responses can be viewed at <http://www.post2015hlp.org/outreach/outreach-stakeholder-responses-to-the-hlp-report/>.

<sup>17</sup> Reference has been made to the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development and human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and its optional protocol.

<sup>18</sup> See the response of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era at <http://www.dawnnet.org/advocacy-appeals.php?signon=306&id=306> which asserts that the report views women's rights as primarily relevant insofar as they increase economic growth, for example, "Women with equal rights are an irreplaceable asset for every society and economy"

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Development Group (2013). *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging views for a New Development Agenda*.

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- <sup>20</sup> “Review of the contributions of the MDG Agenda to foster development: Lessons for the post-2015 UN development agenda”, Discussion note of UN system Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, (March, 2012) p. 9
- <sup>21</sup> ESCAP, ADB, UNDP, forthcoming Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- <sup>22</sup> World Bank (2008) Lessons from World Bank Research on Financial Crises, World Bank Development Research Group, Policy Research Working paper 4779, Washington DC: World Bank
- <sup>23</sup> IMF (2009) The Implications of the Global Financial Crisis for Low-Income Countries, Washington DC: IMF
- <sup>24</sup> Cline, W. (2002) Financial Crises and Poverty in Emerging Market Economics, Working Paper No. 8, Washington DC: Center for Global Development
- <sup>25</sup> See ESCAP (2013). People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015. E/ESCAP/69/21. Accessed at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69\\_21E.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69_21E.pdf) on 15 July 2013.
- <sup>26</sup> See the report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes, including the Chair’s Summary at <http://www.unescap.org/sustainable-development/forums/RIM2013/>
- <sup>27</sup> See ESCAP (2013). People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015. E/ESCAP/69/21. Accessed at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69\\_21E.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69_21E.pdf) on 15 July 2013
- <sup>28</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration. Accessed at <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm> on 10 July 2013.
- <sup>29</sup> See United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/2 at <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>
- <sup>30</sup> Outcome document of the Rio+20 Earth Summit. See United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/288 at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html>
- <sup>31</sup> UNWomen (2012). A stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment: imperatives and key components. Accessed at [http://www.un-ngls.org/IMG/pdf/UN\\_Women\\_Note\\_on\\_Gender\\_Equality\\_Goal-3.pdf](http://www.un-ngls.org/IMG/pdf/UN_Women_Note_on_Gender_Equality_Goal-3.pdf) on 4 August 2013.
- <sup>32</sup> Although both the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime and the Almaty Process on Mixed Migration and International Protection provide the region with platforms for dialogue and cooperation to protect asylum space and address mixed-migration flows, refugee laws are nearly non-existent across Asia and the Pacific
- <sup>33</sup> See ESCAP (2013). People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015. E/ESCAP/69/21. Accessed at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69\\_21E.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69_21E.pdf) on 15 July 2013
- <sup>34</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO), Global Employment Trends 2012 (Geneva, 2012).
- <sup>35</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO), Global Employment Trends 2012 (Geneva, 2012).
- <sup>36</sup> In response to this agreement, a consultation on a framework following the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development for the Asia-Pacific region was organized (by UNESCO with support from UNEP) in May 2013.
- <sup>37</sup> See <http://peoplesgoals.org/food-sovereignty/#sthash.v8oKDtT0.dpuf>
- <sup>38</sup> Statements by participants at the Consultation on Participatory Governance in the Context of the Post 2015 Development Agenda for the Asian Region, 18-19 July 2013, Kuala Lumpur
- <sup>39</sup> See the Dili Consensus at <http://www.g7plus.org/the-dili-consensus/>
- <sup>40</sup> See the report at <http://www.un.org/gsp/>.

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<sup>41</sup> Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.”

<sup>42</sup> See ESCAP (2007) Report of the Regional Implementation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific for the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development”, Jakarta, Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 26-27 November 2007 at [http://www.unescap.org/esd/rim/16/documents/RIM%20report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/esd/rim/16/documents/RIM%20report_Final.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> Defined as “the right of peoples and sovereign states to democratically determine their own agricultural and food policies” by the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). See IAASTD (2008), Global Summary for Decision Makers at <http://www.unep.org/dewa/Assessments/Ecosystems/IAASTD/tabid/105853/Default.aspx/>.

<sup>44</sup> *Sustainability Science: A science based approach to realize the future we want for all*, held in Kuala Lumpur during 4-5 April 2013. See: [http://portal.unesco.org/geography/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=16591&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/geography/en/ev.php-URL_ID=16591&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

<sup>45</sup> ESCAP, ADB and UNEP (2012). *Green Growth, Resources and Resilience: Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific*. (United Nations, Bangkok).

<sup>46</sup> UNEP and CSIRO (2011). *Resource Efficiency: Economics and Outlook for Asia and the Pacific*. (CSIRO, Canberra).

<sup>47</sup> Raworth, K (2012). *A Safe and Just Space for Humanity*. (Oxfam, London). Accessed at <http://www.oxfam.org/en/grow/policy/safe-and-just-space-humanity> on 12 July 2013

<sup>48</sup> E/2013/50. World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable Development Challenges. Overview. Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 2013, Geneva, High Level Segment. 22 April 2013.

<sup>49</sup> The Millennium Assessment defined ecosystem services as “ the benefits people obtain from ecosystems.” Four main types of ecosystem services are identified: “ provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.” Millennium Assessment (2005). *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis*. See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> ESCAP, ADB and UNEP (2012). *Green Growth, Resources and Resilience: Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific*. (United Nations, Bangkok).

<sup>51</sup> World Economic Forum (2011). *Global Risks 2011, Sixth Edition*, an Initiative of the Risk Response Network, <http://riskreport.weforum.org/>

<sup>52</sup> See <http://info.apwatersummit2.org/chiang-mai-declaration/>

<sup>53</sup> National Economic Advisory Council, 30 March 2010, “New Economic Model for Malaysia - Strategic Policy Directions”

<sup>54</sup> Ibid

<sup>55</sup> See Beaton, C. and L. Lontoh (2010). *Lessons Learned from Indonesia’s Attempts to Reform Fossil-Fuel Subsidies* [http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2010/lessons\\_indonesia\\_fossil\\_fuel\\_reform.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2010/lessons_indonesia_fossil_fuel_reform.pdf) (International institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg).

<sup>56</sup> See <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=2237>

<sup>57</sup> See [http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/financial\\_commission.shtml](http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/commission/financial_commission.shtml)

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<sup>58</sup> Asian Development Bank (2012). Asian Development Outlook 2012: Confronting Rising Inequality in Asia, (Asian Development Bank, Manila).

<sup>59</sup> Trends towards widening inequality is particularly strong in China, where the Gini coefficient has increased from 0.35 in 1990 to 0.47 in 2010. Lin T. J., Zhuang D., Yarcia, and Lin F., (2008), “*Income Inequality in the People’s Republic of China and Its Decomposition: 1990–2004*.” Asian Development Review 25(1, 2) and World Bank data

<sup>60</sup> ESCAP (2013). People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015. E/ESCAP/69/21. Accessed at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69\\_21E.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69_21E.pdf) on 15 July 2013.

<sup>61</sup> Guanghua Wan and Sebastian I., (2011), “*Poverty in Asia and the Pacific: An Update*”, ADB Economics Working Paper Series No. 267, p.20

<sup>62</sup> Guanghua Wan and Sebastian I., (2011), “*Poverty in Asia and the Pacific: An Update*”, ADB Economics Working Paper Series No. 267, p.20

<sup>63</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Labor Organization (ILO), (2007), “*Asian experience on Growth, Employment and Poverty: An overview with special reference to the findings of some recent case studies*”

<sup>64</sup> ILO, (2012), “*Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM), 7th edition*” ; ILO: *Global Employment Trends 2012*.

<sup>65</sup> According to Joseph Stiglitz, “The dearth of jobs and the asymmetries in globalization have created competition for jobs in which workers have lost and the owners of capital have won.” Stiglitz, J. ‘The Price of Inequality,’ by Joseph E. Stiglitz)

<sup>66</sup> United Nations, (2009), “*Report of the Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System*”

<sup>67</sup> Bourguignon F., (2003), “*The Poverty-Growth-Inequality Triangle*” proceedings of the AFD EUDN conference 2003.

<sup>68</sup> Statements by participants at the Consultation on Participatory Governance in the Context of the Post 2015 Development Agenda for the Asian Region, 18-19 July 2013, Kuala Lumpur, organized by the Third World Network.

<sup>69</sup> See ESCAP (2013). People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015. E/ESCAP/69/21. Accessed at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69\\_21E.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69_21E.pdf) on 15 July 2013

<sup>70</sup> The Millennium Assessment defined ecosystem services as “ the benefits people obtain from ecosystems.” Four main types of ecosystem services are identified: “ provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.” Millennium Assessment (2005). *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis*. (Island Press, Washington DC). See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> See S. Sullivan (2012). Financialisation, Biodiversity Conservation and Equity: Some currents and concerns. Environment and Development Series (16). Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia.

<sup>72</sup> ILO and ADB (2011). *Women and Labour Markets in Asia: Rebalancing for Gender Equality*. (ILO and ADB, Bangkok).

<sup>73</sup> Research results reported by the World Bank. See <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20190187~menuPK:34457~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

<sup>74</sup> Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific: A Threat Assessment,” UNODC, April 2013, Executive Summary, page viii

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<sup>75</sup> See ESCAP (2013). People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015. E/ESCAP/69/21. Accessed at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69\\_21E.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69_21E.pdf) on 15 July 2013

<sup>76</sup> Parks, T., Colletta N. and B. Oppenheim (2013) "The Contested Corners of Asia: Subnational Conflict and International Development Assistance (The Asia Foundation, San Francisco) Accessed at <http://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/ContestedCornersofAsiaExecutiveSummary.pdf> on 12 August 2013.

<sup>77</sup> ESCAP, ADB, UNEP (2012). Green Growth, Resources and Resilience: Environmental sustainability in Asia and the Pacific. (United Nations, Bangkok).

<sup>78</sup> Society for Participatory Research (India) and the Civil Society@ Crossroads Initiative (2012). Civil Society @ Crossroads: Shifts, Challenges, Options?

<sup>79</sup> Statements by participants at the Consultation on Participatory Governance in the Context of the Post 2015 Development Agenda for the Asian Region, 18-19 July 2013, Kuala Lumpur, organized by the Third World Network.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> See [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)

<sup>82</sup> Illicit capital controls, proceeds of corruption and tax avoidance of multi-national countries, and leadership on sustainable consumption and production, adopting and sharing green technologies.

<sup>83</sup> See for example the proposal of the G33 countries to exempt the procurement and distribution of food from being labeled a subsidy is an example of such an action which has been met by opposition from developed countries.

<sup>84</sup> See for example the Campaign for People's Goal's at <http://peoplesgoals.org/>

<sup>85</sup> United Nations (2013) Report of the Secretary-General on "Global economic governance and development" (A/67/769) [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/documents/ga\\_gg.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/documents/ga_gg.htm)

<sup>86</sup> See <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ga11393.doc.htm>

<sup>87</sup> Adopted by g7+ members (including, from the Asia-Pacific region Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea), Pacific Island States and the group of Portuguese speaking African countries in Dili in February 2013.

<sup>88</sup> See ESCAP (2013). People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015. E/ESCAP/69/21. Accessed at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69\\_21E.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E69_21E.pdf) on 15 July 2013.

<sup>89</sup> A/RES/67/226 Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations System, paragraphs 21 and 146.