

United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Terms of Reference

Thematic Working Group on Resource Efficient Growth (TWG-REG) August 2016

Objectives

The objective of the TWG on Resource Efficient Growth is to advance regional cooperation and action between UN agencies on **improving the capacity of governments and other stakeholders to use the approach and tools of resource efficiency** in the development planning and implementation process so to ensure that economic growth is achieved together with social protection and environmental conservation. More specifically the TWG will be working on:

- Improving the understanding of policy makers and other stakeholders on the relation between economic growth and sustainable development and the role of resource efficiency as an approach that can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Asia and the Pacific region.
- Consolidating knowledge and experiences on how regional megatrends like urbanization, climate change, increased vulnerabilities and inequalities affect the use and management of human, natural and financial resources which in their turn define the planning and outcomes of the development process.
- Promoting a system's thinking approach and showcasing how different sectors (e.g agriculture, buildings, waste, health, etc.) could create multiple benefits by adopting a resource efficient approach within their efforts to promote sustainable development.

On achieving these objectives the TWG will focus on a number of specific functions and activities, as they described in following sections of these TORs, and will be *inter alia* focusing on issues like circular economy; natural resources' management; climate change mitigation; green economy; sustainable consumption & production; sustainable urbanization; waste management and 3R; etc. While the TWG recognizes that the Agenda 2030 calls for the indispensability of the Sustainable Development Goals and while the TWG will promote a holistic approach on supporting SDGs implementation, the activities of the TWG will be mainly focusing on SDGs 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 and related priorities under the Paris Agreement including Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.

Functions

1. The main functions that may be undertaken by the TWGs are: regional analyses and knowledge products that can be used for policy and advocacy work at the global, regional and country levels; information sharing and mapping of programmes and activities across the region; joint programming, including support to regional sectoral coordination mechanisms and organization of regional meetings; mobilize partners, including at the country level in the development of and support to countries for utilization of regional analytical, normative and advocacy products as appropriate.¹ Country level engagement would be undertaken in consultation with UN Country Teams.

¹ RCM chapeau text on TWG TORs, 26 April 2016

2. The core functions of the TWG-REG will be:

- a. To develop joint knowledge products to inform and follow up on the environmental dimension of the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD), Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED), Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (Forum), Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF), Habitat III and other inter-governmental process.
- b. To coordinate the regional UN system wide engagement with key sub regional intergovernmental fora; particularly focusing on the regional dimensions and coordination for the various global agreements and policies as well as building upon on the coordinated efforts supporting ASEAN's Environment and Climate Change Work Plan under ASEAN-UN partnership framework.
- c. To map and encourage the harmonization of regional and subregional programmes and environmental fora, meetings, platforms, workshops, conferences and where feasible encourage merging, convening back to back, grouping, and/or coordination of these fora.
- d. To share key regional and subregional existing and emerging environmental data sources and-working with the TWG on Statistics and consider joint programmes and initiatives to strengthen capacity on regional environmental data collection, management and application to policy making;
- e. To lead in preparing and reviewing analytical inputs on the progress of the environment dimension of the APFSD regional roadmap and for regional SD/SDGs reports.

Organization

3. UNEP, UNDP and ESCAP will serve as Co-Chairs, and act as the joint secretariat to the TWG-REG. The Co-chairs will chair the TWG meetings in rotation. The Co-chairs can make decisions on behalf of the TWG-REG if required, within the parameters of this Terms of Reference, summary record of previous meetings, and the TWG-REG Annual Work Plan.[Annex 1]
4. The core members/participants of the TWG-REG include: *UNEP, UNDP, ESCAP, FAO, WHO; IOM; UNHABITAT; UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNODC*. The TWG may decide to open participation to representatives of other concerned UN agencies, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, and bilateral and multilateral agencies, which should be decided at the TWG meetings.
5. Each member agency will designate a focal point and an alternate, ideally an environment and/or climate change related expert/advisor or someone equivalent in their respective office. The focal points represent their agency and are responsible for providing updates on their environment related activities and plans. The focal point is also responsible for keeping their colleagues in the respective agencies informed on the activities of TWGREG.
6. The TWG-REG will meet as deemed necessary, but at least two times a year. The agenda of each meeting will be circulated to members in advance by the TWG secretariat, including relevant background documents. A summary record of each TWG-REG meeting, reflecting recommended actions and outcomes, will be prepared by the secretariat, endorsed by the members and submitted

to the RCM Secretariat for centralized records.

7. The TWG-REG will prepare an Annual Work Plan [Annex 1], with responsibilities, success indicators and projected timelines for activities, at the first quarter of each calendar year. The TWG-REG Co-chairs will report on implementation of planned activities at the meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) as required.
8. The TWG-REG could decide to establish mechanisms such as Working Groups and Task Forces, drawing on its members, to focus on longer term areas of shared work as well as time-bound specific tasks. These mechanisms will report on their work, including recommendations for consideration where appropriate, to the TWG-REG on a regular basis. Reports may also be made available to the Co-chairs between TWG-REG meetings as required. Cost of participation will be met by each participating agency.

Monitoring and Evaluation

9. The TWG-REG will regularly assess its organization and functioning, including the mandates, relevance and responsibilities of its task forces and working groups. The TWG will prepare an annual work plan at the beginning of each year with the identification of a specific agenda for discussion at each TWG meeting. Implementation of the annual work plan will be monitored through meetings and reporting. Towards this end, the TWG will produce a summary record of each TWG meeting (prepared by the agency chairing the meeting) which will be circulated to RCM members. A detailed assessment of the TWG's relevance and effectiveness will be conducted after two years.

Thematic Working Group on Resource Efficient Growth (TWG-REG)

2016 to 2017 Work plan

Activity Description	Success Indicators	Responsible Lead Agency	Delivery time line	Resources/Budget
1. Capacity Building				
ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2016-2020	Action Plan finalized and presented to ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment meeting (ASOEN)	UNEP	August 2016 <i>Pending endorsement by ASEAN Ministers at meeting in Sept 2017</i>	N/A
Asia-Pacific Knowledge Platform on Sustainable Development (including LCGG, Urban and Water and Sanitation)	Knowledge Platform presented at the 4 th APFSD, March 2017	UNESCAP	March 2017	
2. Specific Meetings Support				
Task Team on sustainable urbanization to coordinate agencies' efforts, engagements and plans in support of Habitat III (Quito, October 2016) preparatory process and the urban Goal 11 and localization	Joint TWG initiatives coordinated for the Prepcom 3, Surabaya and Habitat III, Quito.	UN-HABITAT	October 2016	N/A
3. Regional SDG Related Reports				
Joint report/policy brief on Resource Efficiency policy options that contribute to multiple SDGs/ targets (i.e. RE policy options as an 'integrated approach' to	Present at MCED, APFSD, Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities	ESCAP	June/Sept 2017	

addressing the SDGs)				
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