



**UNITED NATIONS
ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM (RCM)**

Record of the RCM Meeting

9 February 2017, 10:00-11:30 hours

Meeting Room F, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok

I. Organization

A working level meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) was held on 9 February 2017 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok to 1) discuss key messages for the ASEAN-UN Secretariat to Secretariat (S2S) meeting in Jakarta, 18-19 April 2017 and 2) review the status of development of the implementation matrix under the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action 2016-2020. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development, ESCAP. It was attended by representatives of 16 agencies (incl. ESCAP).

II. Key Discussions Points

ASEAN-UN S2S Meeting

The Chair asked the RCM to consider and provide suggestions for key messaging at the opening plenary of the S2S meeting and to identify agencies to take the lead in developing messaging for the technical sub-components of the Plan of Action, which are expected to form the outline of the sessions dialogues.

In response to a question on lessons learned from the 2016 S2S meeting, the Chair noted that there was scope for greater interaction and depth in the discussions. More substantive discussions may be possible now that the PoA had been adopted. He also noted that ASEAN had responded to the key RCM message from last year (that a universal and integrated Agenda requires cross cutting implementation) by developing a more robust Pillar 4 for the PoA.

It was suggested that the UN could do a better job of presenting a united, cross sectoral message across pillars 1, 2, & 3 this year, as opposed to the more segregated messages by DPA and the RCM in 2016.

High level key messaging for the plenary opening was identified, with recognition that the opening would be the only session attended by the ASEAN Secretary General and the three DSGs, together.

- Draw from the UNSG messaging on the central role of regional organizations and the intersection of development and peace and security.
- Provide global context especially: uncertainty in the world and the potential role of multilateralism of ASEAN and UN.
- Emphasize how the UN can help to amplify the ASEAN voice in global fora.
- Link to ASEAN context of ASEAN's 50th anniversary as well as priorities of the Philippines Chair for the year.

- Include advice from DPA/EOSG on the SG's key message interests to ASEAN, which may include specific reference to Myanmar. DPA was asked to follow up on developing messages on Myanmar and migration for the opening.
- Include what it means to "leave no one behind", including for refugees and migrant issues, social protection, political security, education etc.
- Refer to the complementarities between the 2030 Agenda and the ASEAN Vision 2025; focus on what ASEAN has achieved and how ASEAN could support other regions.

It is likely that the technical session dialogues will be aligned to the Plan of Action sections. RCM agencies were assigned to develop key messages of no more than one page bullet points for the PoA sections as below. While the RCM TWGs may be a resource in some cases, the designated agencies were asked to take direct responsibility for producing the key messages briefs by the deadline. It was also advised that the key messages be forward looking- progress oriented and avoid repeating PoA matrix inputs or promoting individual agencies work.

Time line:

Friday, 24 February - Lead agencies to provide (one page) key messages to the Chair (cc to RCM Secretariat)

Friday, 10 March - The Chair circulates a consolidated draft text of RCM key messages for review by agencies

Friday, 17 March - Key messages document finalized

Lead Agencies:

2. Economic Cooperation

2.1 ASEAN Economic Integration - ESCAP, UNDP

2.2 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) - UNDP, ILO, ESCAP, UN Women

2.3 Food, Agriculture and Forestry - FAO

2.4 Energy Security - UNEP, ESCAP

3. Socio Cultural Cooperation

3.1 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - OCHA

3.2 Environment and Climate Change - UNEP, UNDP, ESCAP, UN Habitat

3.3 Culture and Education - UNESCO, UNICEF

3.4 Social Welfare and Development - UNICEF, UN Women, ILO, IOM, ESCAP, UNFPA

4. Cross Sectoral Cooperation

It was suggested that cross sectoral issues be introduced at the higher level opening plenary and more time allowed for such discussion. DPA indicated that this had been discussed with ASEC, but that it was unlikely that more time would be allocated to the opening or that the format would be more of formal ceremonial statements, as opposed to a broader dialogue with the SG and DSGs on cross sectoral issues. It was proposed that cross cultural issues be embedded within the pillar 1, 2 & 3 sessions, as well as covered as a standalone dialogue on the cross cutting section. DPA noted that within ASEC, cross sectoral issues fall under DSG Vongthep's areas of responsibility and so it is likely that the Pillar 3 session will be designated by ASEC for the discussion.

Meeting with Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR)

DPA is still in discussions with the Philippines on the format of the meeting with the CPR. DPA advised that the meeting would be an opportunity to focus on how ASEAN would like to see the UN supporting its priorities.

Participation in the S2S Meetings

Noting the protocol of interventions by ASG level representatives last time, agencies were asked to identify the persons and levels who would be representing their respective agencies at the S2S meeting as soon as possible. DPA needs to convey this information to ASEAN and coordinate NVs and the Chair requires this information to plan UN intervention at the Pillar 2 and Pillar 3, 4 sessions. Mr. Harris confirmed that Mr. Jenča, ASG would be representing DPA.

Implementation Matrix

Mr. Harris informed that the deadline for submitting the first round of matrix inputs is 16 February 2017. DPA will consolidate the inputs and submit to ASEAN for circulation on their side, expecting an opportunity for the UN to review ASEAN's version a few weeks later.

III. Action Items

1. Agencies to populate the implementation matrix by 16 February 2017 for submission by DPA to ASEAN, followed by review of consolidated submission by ASEAN and eventual agreed document by April S2S meeting.
2. Agencies to send DPA and the RCM Secretariat information on the names and level of representation at the S2S meetings.
3. Nominated agencies to provide max. one page of key messages (bulleted) to the Chair by Friday, 24 February. The Chair will circulate a consolidated draft key messages document to the RCM by Friday, 10 March. The RCM to review and provide final comments on the draft document by Friday, 17 March.

**UNITED NATIONS
ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM (RCM)**

**RCM working level meeting to prepare for and agree on key messaging for the
UN-ASEAN Meetings, Jakarta 18-19 April
9 February 2017, 10:00 – 11:30 hours
Meeting Room F, UNCC**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

RCM MEMBERS

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Name of representative(s)</u>
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ESCAP

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi	Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development, Office of Executive Secretary (OES)
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Ms. Maria Misovicova	Programme Officer, CPS, Strategy and Programme Management Division (SPMD)
Mr. Hongpeng Liu	Officer in Charge, Energy Division (ED)
Ms. Aneta Nikolova	Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division (EDD)
Mr. Hamza Ali Malik	Officer-in-charge, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (MPFD)
Mr. Sudip Basu	Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (MPFD)
Ms. Tiziana Bonapace	Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)
Ms. Margarita Guerrero	Director, Statistics Division (SD)
Ms. Cai Cai	Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section, Social Development Division (SDD)
Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer	Officer-in- Charge, a.i., Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division (SDD)

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