

Policy Dialogue

Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South and South-West Asia: Role of the South Asia Network on SDGs (SANS)

8 December 2022

2:30-5:30pm, Islamabad, Pakistan

Hybrid Mode

Considering the recent crises, especially the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War, not only does achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seem unrealistic, some of the Goals are showing regression in South and South-West. The subregion is facing various challenges across all 17 Goals. Among them, high vulnerability to climate-related disasters, increased mortality from air pollution, poverty-induced deprivations, inequalities in terms of access to basic infrastructure and services such as education, health, housing, clean energy and sanitation, and the impact of geopolitical dynamics on peace, democracy and human rights are some of the significant issues.

Rather than focusing on achieving all the 2030 SDGs, which may not be possible in most cases anymore, it is more crucial to rescue them and get back on track as a priority. In the existing climate, a robust approach is necessary to find the best and most strategic entry points and action plans to save the SDGs and salvage some of the damage their achievement experienced in the subregion.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA) is organising a Policy Dialogue entitled ‘Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South and South-West Asia: Role of the South Asia Network on SDGs (SANS)’ as part of the Sixth South and South-West Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals. This Policy Dialogue seeks to deepen engagement between various stakeholders, focusing on potential areas for further strengthening subregional linkages and how such linkages can be channelled into inclusive and sustainable development strategically and efficiently. Considering the role of SANS members in their respective countries as well as the subregion, it is essential to identify the strategic areas and methods in which the Network could best function. The main focus areas of the discussion will be:

- What are the most challenging issues for the subregion? How are they linked with the SDGs?
- What are the most strategic interventions UNESCAP and SANS can make collectively to bring the SDGs progress back on track?

Organiser

Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, UNESCAP- SSWA