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High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
“Implementing the SDGs: Lessons from the regions”

Thursday 12 July 2018, 9 - 11 AM, UNHQs CR 4

SESSION OUTLINE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of action at the regional and sub-regional levels to contextualize and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and ensure effective monitoring of progress. Regional commissions support peer-learning among countries and stakeholders, capacity-building and the development of integrated solutions to address trans-boundary challenges. In this context, the regional level serves as important nexus to strengthen feedback loops from the national to the global levels, and vice versa.

Objectives:

The session on “Implementing the SDGs: Lessons from the regions” will feature the Executive Secretaries of the five Regional Commissions, who will, under the general theme of the HLPF “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” present a diversity of regional perspectives, share examples of best practices and experiences, and provide policy recommendations for action at national, regional and global level. Building on the broader thematic and SDG-focused discussions held during the first part of the week, the session will look at regional trends, thus serving as background to the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews during the second week of the HLPF. The session will also support inter-regional peer learning at the HLPF. During the session, Executive Secretaries will engage in an interactive discussion with Member States, representatives of regional and sub-regional governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders.

Expected outcomes:

Based on latest data and analysis, Member States and other stakeholders will gain a better understanding of regional trends, progress achieved, persistent challenges and opportunities for action in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the regions.



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Questions for discussion:

- What are the key challenges and opportunities for action to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level?
- What policy approaches applied in the regions are yielding positive results in addressing the SDGs under review?
- What are the latest trends in the regions in the mobilization of financial resources and other means of implementation (trade, technology)?
- How is regional, South-South and triangular cooperation evolving in support of the 2030 Agenda?
- What types of partnerships are being formed at the regional level and could be replicated across regions?
- How can the regional commissions better support countries in the achievement of their sustainable development agendas?

Programme:

Time	Programme
1 min	Introduction by Vice-President of ECOSOC
3 mins	Moderator begins the session by introducing the subject.
45 mins	First round of intervention by panellists. Executive Secretaries Regional Commissions provide a regional perspective on the theme of the HLPF and address key regional trends. Ms. Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC Ms. Vera Songwe, ECA Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, ESCWA Ms. Olga Algayerova, ECE Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, ESCAP (Deputy).
6 mins	Interventions by Lead Discussants. Ms. Tatyana Valovaya, Member of the Board (Minister) of the Eurasian Economic Commission. Representative of Major Group self-selected by the MG's coordination mechanism: Ms. Alma Sinumlag, Programme Officer, Cordillera Women Education and Action Research Center (Asia-Pacific Civil Society Mechanism)
15 mins	Interventions from the floor
20 mins	Second round of interventions by panellists (Executive Secretaries Regional Commissions)
15 mins	Interventions from the floor
10 mins	Concluding remarks by panellists (Executive Secretaries Regional Commissions)



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Detailed scenario

- 9:00 – 9:01 Introduction remarks of the Vice President of ECOSOC who will chair the session.
- 9:02 – 9:05 The moderator begins the panel by introducing the subject with a few bullet point-style messages (3 minutes maximum)
- 9:05 – 9:50 The moderator will then introduce and give the floor to the panelists. The introduction of the speakers should be done in one or two sentences. **During the first round, Executive Secretaries will provide a regional perspective on the theme of the HLPF and address key regional trends**, as outlined above (7/8 minutes intervention).
- **MS. ALICIA BARCENA**, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLAC
 - **MS. VERA SONGWE**, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECA
 - **MR. MOHAMED ALI ALHAKIM**, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCWA
 - **MS. OLGA ALGAYEROVA**, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECE
 - **MR. KAVEH ZAHEDI**, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCAP
- 9:51 – 9:58 Following the contributions of the panelists, the moderator will invite the lead discussants to make comments and raise questions for a maximum of 3 minutes each.
- **MS. TATYANA VALOVAYA**, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION
 - **MS. ALMA SINUMLAG**, PROGRAMME OFFICER, CORDILLERA WOMEN EDUCATION AND ACTION RESEARCH CENTER (ASIA-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY MECHANISM)
- 10:00 – 10:15 The moderator will then open the floor for Ministers and other participants to make comments and questions from the floor (maximum of 3 minutes each for the first intervention).
- 10:15–10:35 This will be followed by a **second round, with Executive Secretaries addressing efforts to mobilize means of implementation, gaps and recommendations for action** (3/4 minutes intervention). The Moderator may ask panelists to react to comments or specific questions from the audience.
- 10:35 – 10:50 The moderator will then open the floor for Ministers and other participants to make comments and questions from the floor (maximum of 1 minute each).
- 10:50- 11:00 Some eight minutes before concluding the session, the moderator will pass the floor back to the panelists for concluding remarks of 1 minute each. S/he should highlight a few key messages from the discussions at the end. Then the moderator will hand the floor back to the President of ECOSOC or Vice President of ECOSOC.