#### Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development: National Policy Frameworks in Asia and the Pacific

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### Main questions

- What is the status of STI4SD policies across the Asia-Pacific region?
- What are the main policy gaps identified?
- How can those gaps be closed?
- Is there scope to regionalize selected policies?

What kinds of STI policies support and drive systemic transitions towards sustainability?

### **Conceptual framework**

- Starting point: ESCAP memos from the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop
  - "A Conceptual Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Driven Sustainable Development and the Role of ESCAP"
  - "Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals."
- Why innovation systems
  - identify system failures
    - strengths and weaknesses at the system level, which may be less noticeable at the product, process, or organizational levels.
    - mainly focus on sectoral innovation system and technological innovation system at the national level

### Sustainable development in SDGs

- Very broadly defined
- Not only production, but includes consumption, livelihoods, and social justice issues
- SD is not limited to production of sustainable technologies by firms, and the adoption and consumption by firms and households
- SD is a process of systemic transitions of the whole socio-economic-technical systems towards sustainability

# **Innovation systems for STI4SD**

Requires rethinking about innovation systems

- Objectives
  - Not just economic competitiveness → social well-being, environmental improvement, and social justice
- Boundary
  - Have to be beyond a sector, a group of technologies, and even a geographical boundary
- Systemic change
  - Incremental and minor improvement to existing ways of production, consumption, distribution is not enough
  - sustainable development requires systemic transformation
  - socio-technical transitions

# **Innovation systems for STI4SD**

- Actors and networks
  - beyond triple helix: + civil society & NGOs + the media
  - Not just top-down approach to policy making →
     "democratization of innovation"
- Institutions
  - rules, norms, and incentives: beyond profitability
- Knowledge
  - may not be limited to commoditized knowledge
  - traditional knowledge, local wisdom

# **Innovation systems for STI4SD**

Need to integrate three systems approaches to STI policies

- Sectoral innovation systems
- Technological innovation systems
- Socio-technical transitions

- Importance of overall sustainability policy and legal frameworks
- Policies that aim to enhance industrial competitiveness through sustainable production
- National focus, limited efforts in developing regional and local innovation systems
- Mixed roles of multinational firms in innovation



