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# Asia-Pacific High-Level Consultation on Financing for Development

29-30 April 2015  
Jakarta, Indonesia

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (as of 11 March 2015)

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## Wednesday, 29 April

07.30 – 08.30

*Registration (Djuanda Hall, Ministry of Finance)*

08.30 – 09.00

### **Welcome remarks**

- **Shamshad Akhtar**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

### **Opening remarks**

- **George Talbot**, Co-facilitator for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (TBC)

### **Keynote address**

- **Bambang Brodjonegoro**, Minister of Finance, Indonesia

09.00 – 09.15

*Group photo and tea/coffee*

09.15 – 09.30

### **Overview presentation by ESCAP**

- **Shamshad Akhtar**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

**09:30 – 10:30**

### **Session 1: Asia-Pacific regional context: Financing in a changing development landscape**

In 2000, the international community adopted the Millennium Declaration, laying out a global roadmap to achieve development goals to reduce extreme poverty, advance education and health outcomes, achieve gender equality, and foster a global partnership for development. 2015 marks another milestone year in which the international community will adopt a universal and transformative post-2015 development agenda, incorporating new and emerging challenges such as rising social and income inequality, jobs and infrastructure needs, and climate change into sustainable development goals (SDGs). Financing is a key enabler for the implementation of these goals. Building on the Monterrey Consensus (2002) and the Doha Declaration (2008), the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July 2015 will deliberate on ways to support the implementation of the emerging sustainable development goals. This session will review the draft outcome document of the Addis Ababa conference and highlight priority issues for the Asia-Pacific region.

Key Questions:

- What could be the Asia-Pacific region's perspectives on the Addis Ababa Accord and its proposed financing for development framework?
- What are the additional financing sources and instruments that could be mobilized to support the emerging sustainable development goals?
- How can financing for development be better integrated into the national development processes?

**10.30 – 12:30**

### **Session 2: Domestic resource mobilization for social sector financing**

In Asia-Pacific region, some of the most pressing policy issues are related to investments in social development; for instance, universal health coverage, level and quality of education, employment related schemes, food security, water supply and sanitation. This underscores the need for re-prioritizing government spending and for strengthening domestic resources mobilization, including tax revenues. At the same time, central banks have an important role in promoting inclusive finance. This session explores ways to enhance domestic investable resources for social development and enhance the policy measures to expand the scope of inclusive finance.

Key Questions:

- What are the key modalities for social sector financing in the Asia-Pacific region?
- What are the reform policies to reprioritize public expenditure for social development?
- What are the scopes and opportunities for domestic resource mobilization, including tax revenues? What could be the role of the proposed Asia-Pacific Tax Forum in promoting regional dialogue on tax cooperation matters?

**12.30 – 13.30**

*Lunch*

**13.30 – 15.30**

### **Session 3: Finance for sustainable cities, technology and small entrepreneurs**

Cities in the Asia-Pacific are the engines of economic growth and centers of societal transformation. As much as 80 per cent of the region's GDP is generated in urban areas. As urbanization proceeds rapidly, there is a great demand for the provision of adequate employment and sustainable livelihoods and for managing the significant economic gaps and opportunities. However, local government financing systems have been traditionally weak. At the same time, at both national and local levels, there is a need to scale-up financing available for innovation and technology and for small entrepreneurs to drive productivity growth and promote decent jobs. This section explores ways to strengthen local government finances and increase financing for technology and small entrepreneurs, including through improved access to capital markets.

Key Questions:

- What are the policy measures to strengthen cities and local government finance?
- What role can guarantees, credit enhancement and other enabling policies play?
- How can venture capital, trade finance, and other innovative financing mechanisms including Islamic finance be made available for SMEs?
- How can the role of inclusive business models and philanthropy be promoted and scaled up in the Asia-Pacific region?

**15.30 – 16.00**

*Coffee*

**16.00 – 18.00**

### **Session 4: Infrastructure financing: regional institutions and institutional investors**

Given the sheer scale of financing requirements, infrastructure investment could be tackled from multiple angles, including through effectively engaging the private sector and promoting regional financial cooperation for infrastructure development as well as re-prioritizing government spending and channeling official development assistance. In particular, institutional investors such as pension funds and insurance companies could play a greater role given their sizable long-term assets. At the same time, new institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the BRICS New Development Bank could help recycle the region's savings and pool other resources for the region's investment needs.

Key Questions:

- How can the financial institutions and capital markets of the region assume the additional responsibilities of financing large infrastructure development gaps?
- What institutional framework and enabling environment are needed for institutional investors and public-private partnerships to fund infrastructure investment?
- How can the contribution of newly established regional and trans-regional financing institutions be made most effective and inclusive to promote infrastructure development in Asia-Pacific?

**18.00 – 20.00**

***Reception hosted by ESCAP and Ministry of Finance, Indonesia***

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**Thursday, 30 April**

**08.30 – 10.30**

**Session 5: Climate finance**

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region have become more vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters, while environmental challenges such as air pollution and deforestation continue to escalate in some countries. At the same time, energy demand is rapidly growing in many countries. Therefore, learning from country-level and regional initiatives to address such issues can be very useful to develop more coordinated and effective strategies to address the growing challenges from climate change, promote sustainable energy for all, and facilitate and diffuse green technology.

Key Questions:

- How can climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction become part of the overall framework of financing for sustainable development?
- What are the ways in which low income and vulnerable countries access global and regional climate funds?
- How can climate finance be mainstreamed and green technology be better facilitated and diffused?

**10.30 – 11.00**

*Coffee*

**11.00 – 13.00**

**Session 6: Financing development gaps in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States**

The investment requirements to promote sustainable development are often significantly higher in least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). Furthermore, due to structural and geographical constraints, the enabling environment and governance measures are pivotal to the implementation of the financing of these development goals in these countries. This session explores ways to integrate the recommendations of the three global programme of actions (Istanbul, Vienna and Samoa) into the new financing for development framework for tapping

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