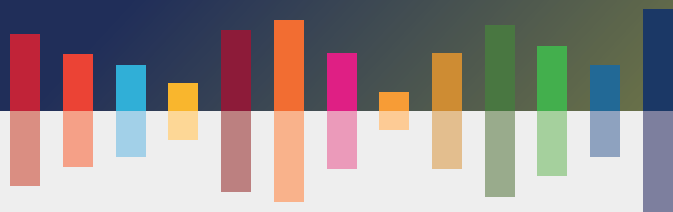


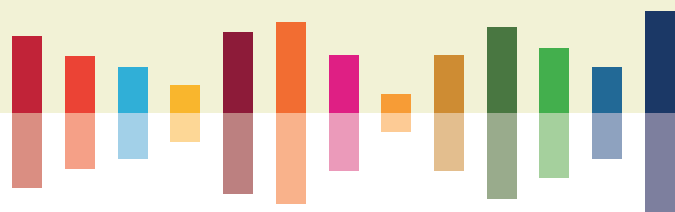
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FAST-TRACKING THE SDGs DRIVING ASIA-PACIFIC TRANSFORMATIONS



Fast-tracking the SDGs: Driving Asia-Pacific Transformations

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Printed in Thailand

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ISBN 978-92-9262-219-0 (print); 978-92-9262-210-6 (electronic); 978-92-9262-221-3 (ebook)

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/SPR200149-2>

Cataloguing-In-Publication Data

United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme.

Fast tracking the SDG: Driving Asia Pacific Transformations

Bangkok, Thailand: United Nations, 2020

1. Transformation 2. Acceleration 3. Pandemic 4. Asia-Pacific 5. Sustainable Development 6. SDGs 7. United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme

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FOREWORD

As we publish this report, the Asia-Pacific region is grappling with the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. A collective response will be needed to contain the loss of life and address this evolving human crisis. Beyond the immediate social and economic impacts, we still know too little about this new virus to draw conclusions about the scale or scope of its long-term effects. However, it is clear that a return to “business as usual” will not serve a region that is already off track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Transformative approaches will be needed for progress, especially on goals facing the most persistent shortcomings. This report shows that some countries have been able to move faster than others and make progress on various aspects of the 2030 Agenda. It focuses on six interlinked transformative entry points that are key to the Global Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.

Keeping focus on the 2030 Agenda as a beacon in these turbulent times is now more important than ever. The disruptions wrought by the pandemic are cause for introspection and a gateway for a shift in social values that may ease the way for transformations. The pandemic has brought to the forefront how many people in our societies live precariously close to poverty and hunger, without access to essential services to safeguard their health. It has also revealed that we are only as safe, and as strong, as the weakest and most vulnerable among us. The pandemic has changed the ways in which many people work and consume, and hastened the uptake of technologies, in ways that may help create opportunities to accelerate progress on the Global Goals.

Responses to the COVID-19 crisis must be centred on the needs of people, and promote empowerment, equality and environmental sustainability. The imperative to ensure that no one is left behind has never been as urgent, or as daunting. We will need to support countries in securing the financing they need to weather this crisis. A compelling sense of direction and urgency, a bold commitment to remove systemic barriers to change and promote people’s rights, a readiness of institutions and diverse groups in society to innovate, and an upgraded and updated approach to policymaking that better manages complexity will all be essential.

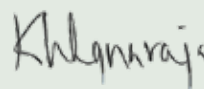
Each of our institutions has been mobilized to support a well-directed, inclusive and well-resourced response. We are pleased to issue this joint report at this critical juncture, in the hope that it will support actions to fast-track Asia-Pacific transformations for the achievement of the SDGs.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fast-tracking the SDGs: Driving Asia-Pacific Transformations was prepared under the Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership of ESCAP, ADB and UNDP. A technical team from the three organizations (Kaveh Zahedi, Stefanos Fotiou, Katinka Weinberger, Hitomi Rankine and Arun Jacob of ESCAP; Bernard Woods, Smita Nakhooda, Roman Hoffman and Kayly Ober of ADB; Valerie Cliff, Jaco Cilliers, Hannie Meesters and Bishwa Nath Tiwari of UNDP) guided the development of the text.

The core team of authors comprised Arun Jacob, Hitomi Rankine, Katinka Weinberger and Omer Aijazi. Contributing authors included Samiuddin Ahmed, Georges Delrieu and Bishwa Nath Tiwari.

Staff members from ESCAP, ADB and UNDP reviewed parts of the report and provided technical inputs: Erik Aelbers, Paul Bunsell, Cai Cai, Patrick Duong, Yan Duval, Hongjoo Hahm, Gemma Van Halderen, Alberto Isgut, Florian Kitt, Jeong-Dae Lee, Hamza Ali Malik, Hannie Meesters, Kee-Yung Nam, Kaukab H. Naqvi, Mansour Ndiaye, Genadiy Rau, Karin Schelzig, Srinivas Tata, Bishwa Nath Tiwari, Christine Wellington-Moore and Michael Williamson. Additionally, staff members as part of sector-specific Reference Groups provided valuable insights on the country “deep dives”: Shakeel Ahmad, Md Anisuzzaman, Milou Beerepoot, Jyoti Bisbey, Matthew Johnson-Idan and Ermioni Sokou. They were joined by Sture Patrik Andersson, Rima Prama Artha, Elena Danilova-Cross, Wang Dong, Irina Goryunova, Sophie Kemkhadze, Hongpeng Liu, Winifereti Nainoca, Sharad Neupane, Van Nguyen, Kevin Petrini, Shamsur Rahman, Devanand Ramiah, Emma Sale and Sweta Saxena.

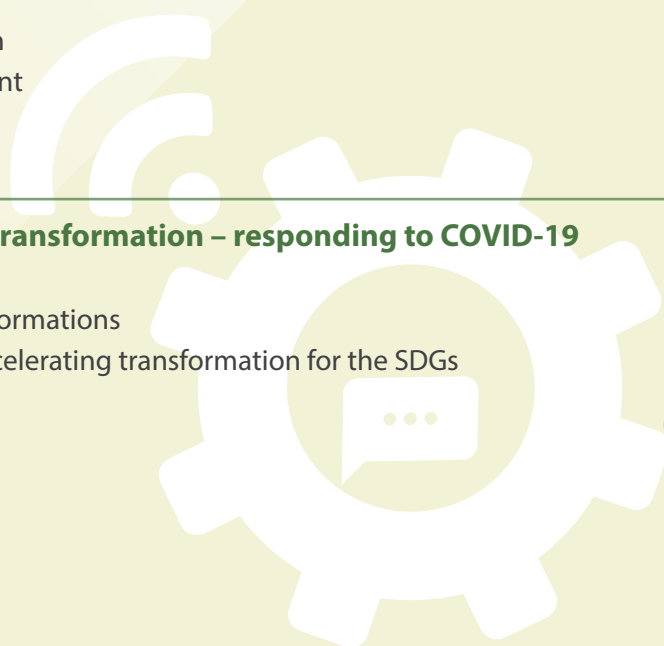
Arman Bidarbakht Nia, Georges Delerieu, Hazel M. Lalas, Ishraq Fazal, Azusa Reardon, Dayyan Shayani, Bishwa Nath Tiwari and Szewun Tong provided research and data support.

Those who took part in an expert consultation organized by ESCAP in October 2019 are also gratefully acknowledged: Courtney Lawrence and Hannie Meesters, Bishwa Nath Tiwari and Szewun Tong (UNDP), Fera Fizani Ahmad Fizri (Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology), Johan Falk (Exponential Roadmap), Marie Lisa M. Dacanay and Gomer Padong (Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia), Peter Newell (Rapid Transition Alliance), Rushdi Abdul Rahim (Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology), Hazwan Rezak (Sarawak Multimedia Authority), Areeya Tivasuradej (Raitong Organics Farm), Omer Aijazi, Charumati Haran and Shannon Kalayanamitr.

Tom Felix Joehnk edited the manuscript and project administration support was provided by Aqira Bhattachayutmaytri. Communications and publishing support was provided by Kavita Sukanandan and Linn Enger Leigland (ESCAP); Graham Dwyer, Pima O. Arizala-Bagamasbad, Rodel Bautista and Duncan McLeod (ADB); Cedric Monteiro, Mahtab Haider and Supaporn Tampirak (UNDP); the Publications Board of the United Nations, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP; the ADB Office of Administrative Services; and the publishing team of ADB’s Department of Communications. Publication design and layout was by Quo Global.

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