

## Side Event on “Gender, the Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”

12:00-13:50, Friday, 8 September 2017  
Conference Room 3, United Nations Conference Centre  
Bangkok, Thailand

### Background

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals set the foundation for comprehensive and integrated actions on environmental sustainability. With the 2030 Agenda’s focus to leave no one behind, national policies and strategies that address environmental concerns must consider inequalities between men and women, and the pathways to reduce those disparities.

In Asia and the Pacific, the lives of a sizable proportion of women are inextricably tied to the use of environment for daily support and livelihood. For instance, more than 80 per cent of rural households in the region use biomass for fuel, compared with only 25 per cent of urban households, which affects a preponderance of women more than men. Around 58 per cent of the economically active women in the region are in the agriculture sector. Women constitute 54 per cent of the labour force in small-scale inland fisheries in the region. For the agenda of sustainable development to advance in the region, countries need to understand—and then respond to the gender-based realities inequalities in the sphere of managing the environment and natural resources.

Against this backdrop, ESCAP is organising a side event at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment. This side-event will be comprised of opening remarks by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary, ESCAP, followed by a high-level panel discussion wherein policymakers share their experiences of tackling the intersections between gender and environment in their respective countries, lessons learnt and innovative policy responses which can guide the region towards transforming the vision of sustainable development into reality. The side event will also witness the launch of ESCAP’s *Gender, the Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, the first Asia-Pacific report that comprehensively maps the linkages between gender inequality and environment at the levels of household, work, community and policy. By examining gender concerns in the spheres of food security, agriculture, energy, water, fisheries and forestry, the report identifies strategic entry points for policy interventions towards a truly inclusive and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

### Objective

Specifically, the Side Event aims to achieve the following:

- To generate awareness regarding the intersections between gender and environment in the spheres of food security, agriculture, energy, water, fisheries and forestry and its catalytic role in achieving sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;
- To share member States’ experiences, good practices and policy innovations in tackling the linkages between gender inequalities and environment; and
- To identify key recommendations which could be incorporated in national policy frameworks thereby strengthening the implementation of the SDGs.



## Programme

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
12:00	Light lunch served outside Conference Room 3
12:30	Commencement of the Side Event on “ <i>Gender, the Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific</i> ”
12:35	Opening remarks by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary, ESCAP
12:45	High-Level Panel Discussion  Moderator: Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development, ESCAP  Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. H.E. Mr. Anuradha Jayarathne, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Sri Lanka</li><li>2. H.E. Lorna Eden, Assistant Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Fiji</li><li>3. Dr. Bernadette (Babette) P. Resurrección, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute</li></ol>
13:30	Q&A session with audience
13:45	Concluding remarks from the moderator
13:50	Closing of side event

## Contact

**Ms. Grace Puliyeel**, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP

Tel: +66 2288 1657

Email: [puliyeel@un.org](mailto:puliyeel@un.org)