

Information Note:
Summary of the Side Event
“Regional Dimension in Achieving SDGs:
From Lessons Learned to Practical Action in the ASEAN Region and Beyond”
in the margins of the SDG Summit

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On 24 September 2019, Thailand, as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation and the current Chair of ASEAN, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and the ASEAN Secretariat, organised a side event on “Regional Dimension in Achieving SDGs: From Lessons Learned to Practical Action in the ASEAN Region and Beyond” in the margins of the SDG Summit at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The main objective of the event is to share ASEAN’s best practices in advancing sustainable development cooperation in the region.

The event was co-hosted by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP, and attended by representatives from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN’s External Partners and UN agencies. Also present at the event were H.E. Mr. Teodoro Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, H.E. Mrs. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Undersecretary of the National Economic Development Authority, the Philippines and H.E. Mr. Md Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh.

Three key elements for taking forward SDGs implementation in ASEAN were highlighted, namely (1) enhancing regional catalysts for the realisation of the SDGs, including through the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) and the development of the Complementarities Roadmap (2) ensuring that the people of ASEAN are the ultimate beneficiaries of sustainable development cooperation and (3) strengthening partnership for the SDGs, within ASEAN and beyond.

During the panel discussion, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Norway, and the ACSDDSD exchanged views on how ASEAN can further strengthen regional cooperation in supporting the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote regional peace and prosperity which are two sides of the same coin. To this end, it was suggested that ASEAN needs to create platforms for dialogue, where ASEAN Member States can share their experiences, discuss ways forward, and strengthen cooperation with external partners to implement the SDGs in a more accelerated and effective manner.

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