Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations  
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Remarks (as prepared for delivery)

HLPF 2024: Messages from the Regions

How can we mobilize innovative regional pathways and leverage regional frameworks to support countries in overcoming crises to ensure full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow up to the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit?

Tuesday, 16 July 2024  
10:15 to 11:45 hrs. (New York Time)  
CR-4

Excellency President of ECOSOC, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

We at ESCAP are dedicated to promoting innovative policies and inspiring regional innovations.

We are working towards applying human-centered design when conceiving our support initiatives at the regional and national levels.

Our goal is to provide member States and users with up-to-date data through AI-powered tools and seamless technical platforms. A good example in this regard is our work on disaster risk reduction (DRR).
The region, though heavily affected by disasters, is emerging as a hub for technological innovation in disaster resilience and climate adaptation. Addressing the region's vulnerability to natural disasters is vital for achieving the SDGs.

We are developing a regional mechanism for pre-disaster satellite imagery and data sharing between high-tech and high-risk countries, enhancing resilience, risk monitoring and disaster management capabilities.

For example, the Central Asia Drought Information System focuses on drought management by improving monitoring and prediction, and is aligned with the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030).

This mechanism enhances the capacity of line ministries to use satellite data and geospatial information for effective drought monitoring and early warning systems.

Innovative thinking ensures that our solutions are practical and applicable in real-life contexts. Holistic solutions, including capacity building, are essential for seamless adoption and integration at national and regional levels.

The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative is a region-wide multistakeholder platform aimed at bridging the digital divide and accelerating digital transformation. It involves 25 regionally coordinated actions across digital connectivity, digital technology and applications, and the responsible use of digital data.
To inspire regional action, we pilot innovative initiatives, including in addressing the SDG financing challenge, which requires innovative funding and investment methods. We have designed policy actions to encourage private sector investments in sustainable and inclusive economies.

Examples include social and sustainable stock exchanges linking investors to socially and environmentally conscious companies, tax incentives for such investments, and incorporating social and green criteria in government procurement processes.

Finally, a culture of innovation within our organization is crucial. Our colleagues are encouraged to experiment and innovate, supported by our innovation team, which fosters a space for exploring new approaches and recognizing efforts.

Thank you very much.