

CONCEPT NOTE

WEBINAR SERIES INSTITUTIONALIZING ENGAGEMENT FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

“One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making.” — Agenda 21

BACKGROUND

Stakeholder engagement is at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In order for the SDGs to truly be successful, governments must work with diverse sectors of society to ensure that all stakeholders are included in the process of implementing, monitoring, and reviewing policies related to sustainable development. UNESCAP, in partnership with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), has been working to help build the capacity of governments in the Asia-Pacific region so they can engage key national stakeholders towards the successful realization of the 2030 Agenda in their respective countries.

As part of these efforts, a series of webinars will be produced as to provide further technical support to governments, stakeholders, and others in the region and beyond. Each webinar will help increase knowledge of participation and ensure a better understanding of the mechanisms and means of meaningful engagement. Some guiding questions for the series includes:

- What are barriers to participation and how can they be removed?
- How do you build trust in society in order to bring all stakeholders together around the actualization of the 2030 Agenda?
- How is engagement institutionalized and made more meaningful?
- And more . . .

INTRODUCTION

There are many elements to the institutionalization of engagement, to make public participation effective, meaningful, and inclusive. Despite this, institutionalization of engagement requires a social and political embrace of people's participation in decision-making, where stakeholders are seen as partners in governance, and the democratic process moves beyond elections every few years. This is especially true in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which makes clear that stakeholders are central to the success of the SDGs.

This installment of the webinar series will provide insights into the

institutionalization of stakeholder engagement, what is required, how it works, and tie it back to the larger 2030 Agenda and voluntary national review (VNR) process.

All are invited to participate, especially representatives of governments and civil society organizations engaged in work around sustainable development.

DATE

16 October 2018, 16:00 Bangkok time

*Link for participation to be shared with all who register as well as online.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Substantive segment
3. Discussion and Q+A
4. Wrap up

PRESENTATIONS

1. Overview by UNESCAP
2. Case studies from the national and subnational level

REGISTRATION

Use the following link to register for this webinar

<https://goo.gl/forms/FfLnJCaeViko6VWv1>

Please register as updates, information regarding access to the webinar platform, and other details will be shared with those who express interest in participating. Feel free to share this registration form with colleagues.

PREVIOUS MODULE

A recording of the first installment of the series, entitled An Introduction to Stakeholder Engagement in the 2030 Agenda, which took place on 19 September 2018, is available through the link below:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/unescap-stakeholder-engagement-webinar-series-module-1>