



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Introduction of the Secretary-General's Report on
"Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields ([E/2024/15](#))"**

**Statement by Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Director
Regional Commissions New York Office**

24 July 2024

Mr. Chair, Ambassador Rae, Vice-President of ECOSOCC,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Regional Commissions, of introducing the Secretary-General's report on regional cooperation contained in document E/2024/15 and its Addendum.

Excellencies,

Six years away from the 2030 deadline, the pace towards achieving the SDGs remains worryingly off-track across all regions. The Secretary-General called in his remarks during HLPF for "a surge in implementation" through massive investment and effective partnerships to unlock progress across the Goals.



In this context, guided by the outcomes of key global and regional conferences, such as the SDG Summit, the 2023 Water Conference, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, to name but a few, the Regional Commissions continue to leverage their thought leadership and their unique convening power to advance regional action on the SDGs. The Commissions also continued to play key roles in, SDG data and monitoring; bridging the global agenda and UN country-level action, and fostering regional cooperation as a building block of global multilateralism. Through their intergovernmental platforms and technical work, the Regional Commissions continue to build political momentum and bottom-up action towards the Summit of the Future and other milestone moments in our global agenda, such as the FFD4 Conference, the Oceans Conference, and the Second World Summit on Social development.

Excellencies,

The Secretary-General's report in front of you today is presented in two parts. The first part of the report updates on the state of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda across the five regions. It also illustrates the work of the Regional Commissions at the regional, subregional, and country levels . The second part of the report provides an overview of policy matters addressed by the Regional Commissions during their main sessions, including through the annual Regional Forums on Sustainable Development, as well as actions taken to fully implement mandates related to the regional United Nations development system reform.

Allow me to highlight some examples of achievements registered by the Regional Commissions around the three broad priority areas, as evidenced in



the report before you.

In the critical area of **Financing sustainable recovery and resilience**, the Regional Commissions contributed to driving the financing for development agenda in the regions through data analysis, policy dialogues on the reform of the international financial architecture and other themes, including with regional development banks, and advocacy for innovative approaches to support economies adapt to shocks, achieve growth and accelerate the SDGs. For example, ECA undertook advocacy initiatives in the area of debt sustainability to effectively address challenges at the intersection of debt, climate, and development. Similarly, in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC convened member States to discuss solutions to questions of sovereign debt resolution and restructuring, the region's economic and fiscal context and the regional tax policies to stimulate growth and reduce inequalities.. Both ECA and ECLAC have supported capacity building in countries to improve domestic resource mobilization, specially in the area of tax governance.

As regards the area **of powering a just energy transition through policies and partnerships**, allow me to highlight examples from other regions. In Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP has provided direct support to countries to develop National Roadmaps for SDG 7 and furthered work on the Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity, in close collaboration with the ASEAN.

UNECE has also continued to pioneer work on norms and standards in this area, in particular through the United Nations Resource Management System, that provides a common language for assessing and improving the sustainability performance of resource extraction activities.



Finally, as regards **fostering social development and leaving no-one behind**, a key pillar of the Regional Commissions work that we hope to fully leverage as we approach the second World Summit on Social development, allow me to highlight an example from the Arab region, where ESCWA, with its innovative tools, supports member States in reforming their national social protection systems including by proposing viable and costed reform options.

For more details, in addition to the SG's report on regional cooperation, I encourage Member States to refer to the Summaries of the Work of the Regional Commissions submitted as part of the official documentation today.

Mr Chair,
Excellencies.

As per established procedure, the Addendum to the report contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted by the Regional Commissions' sessions held during the reporting period, in this case the Economic Commission for Africa's fifty-sixth session, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on 4 and 5 March 2024, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's eightieth session, held in Bangkok from 22 to 26 April 2024, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its thirty-first session held in Cairo from 16 to 18 December 2023.

Mr Chair,
Excellencies,



Regional Commissions New York Office
Telephone: 212-963-6905
Room S-1510, New York, NY 10017
<https://www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/>



To conclude, as the current ECOSOC cycle winds down and a new cycle is about to begin, I wish to reaffirm, on behalf of the Regional Commissions and on my own behalf as Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office, our commitment to improved coordination, coherent and impactful delivery of our work to support countries and regions in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. As Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office, I am committed to advancing cross-regional collaboration and exchange of knowledge and to fostering stronger links between the regional and country level work and the global policy discussions.

Thank you for your attention.

...//...