

*“We value our association with the North and Central Asian subregion. As we move from the design to the implementation phase of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we will remain steadfast in our support for regional cooperation through trade integration and infrastructure connectivity.”*

**Shamshad Akhtar**

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP



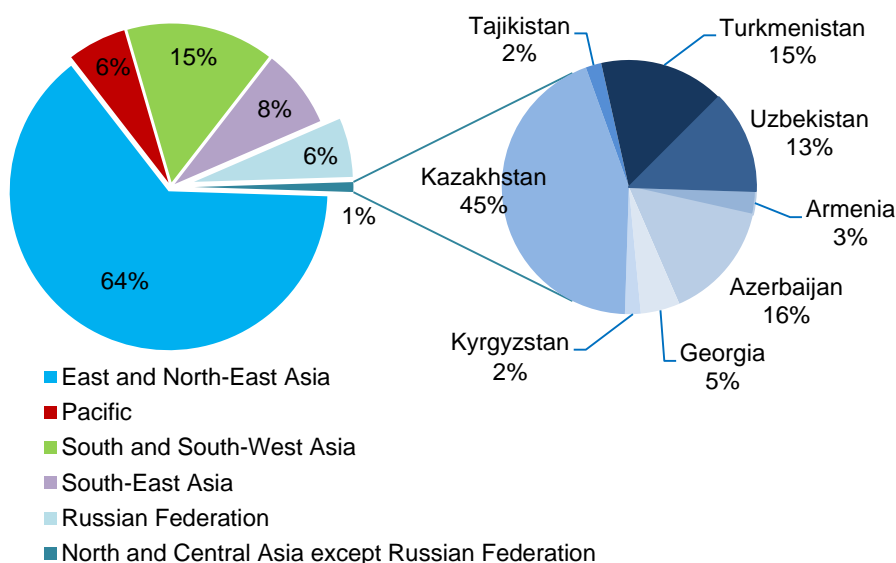
## Welcome to ESCAP-SONCA

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (ESCAP-SONCA), is one of the four subregional offices across Asia and the Pacific. SONCA's members States are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Through analysis of key subregional issues and challenges it provides policy support, helps build consensus and serves as a link that enhances operational effectiveness between ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand and the subregion.

### THE NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA SUBREGION



### ESCAP REGION: SHARE OF GDP



*Source:* ESCAP, based on national sources and CEIC Data

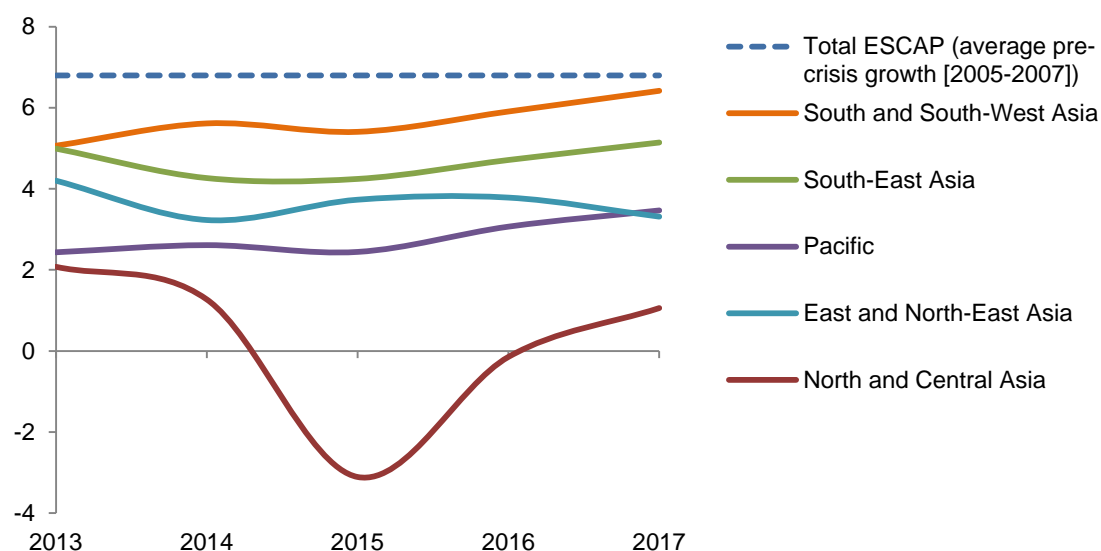
## Background

ESCAP-SONCA was established under the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 63/260 as a result of the United Nations Secretary-General's pledge to strengthen the UN Development Pillar. ESCAP-SONCA was accredited on 5 July 2011 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and better positions ESCAP to address the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the subregion.

## Main Objectives

- Facilitate transformation of landlocked countries into “land-linked” countries through trade integration, as well as transport, energy and ICT connectivity.
- Facilitate through intergovernmental policy dialogues, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Ensure that subregional needs and perspectives are reflected in the promotion of broader regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

**ESCAP REGION: AVERAGE ANNUAL GDP GROWTH [% CHANGE PER ANNUM]**



Source: ESCAP, based on national sources and CEIC Data

## SPECA

The UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) addresses key areas of economic, social and environmental cooperation, closely linked to the development challenges of the broader region. The members States of SPECA are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. SPECA seeks to promote subregional cooperation among its members for a more effective integration into regional and global development processes. It is jointly supported by two UN Regional Commissions – the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

## About ESCAP

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing evidence-based policy analysis and recommendations, technical assistance and capacity building to member States. It provides the strategic link between global and country-level programmes and issues. It supports Governments in the region to consolidate regional positions and advocates regional approaches to meet the region's unique socio-economic challenges in a globalizing world.

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