



**South and South-West Asia Office**



**Government of Nepal**



## **Expert Group Meeting**

**on**

# **MDG consistent Macroeconomic Modelling for Planning in South Asia**

*Organized by*

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific –  
South and South-West Asia Office (UNESCAP-SSWA)**

*in cooperation with*

**Government of Nepal (GoN), National Planning Commission  
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat**

**1-2 October 2013, Hotel Everest, Kathmandu, Nepal**

## **Concept Note**

### **Background and Context**

South Asia has shown mixed progress in development gains since governments of the world adopted the Millennium Declaration and upon this the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as development targets to achieve by 2015. While the countries of South Asia have already achieved or are on-track to achieve MDG 6 on the eradication of transferrable diseases, its performance in achieving the remaining MDGs varies across countries and indicators. Progress is on-track for halving the regions population living in extreme poverty in MDG 1, but not the same goal's target for underweight children. The region is also stalled or off-track in key development areas such as completing the last grade of primary school (MDG 2); gender equality in tertiary education (MDG 3); infant and child mortality and maternal mortality (MDG 4 and MDG 5 respectively); and access to basic sanitation (MDG 7). Individual country progress on the MDGs varies, but the fastest growing countries haven't experienced the greatest human development improvements.

At the same time, governments in South Asia have placed the highest priorities on the implementation and appropriate planning of national development plans and goals for accelerating macroeconomic growth and resilience and the implementation, within this framework, for national policies and programmes for achieving faster and better improvements in economic and social wellbeing. The application of macroeconomic models and other qualitative and quantitative tools of applied macroeconometrics, statistics and simulation frameworks have become standards for obtaining empirical and quantitative information and insights to inform the creation of development plans and to ensure more effective implementation of national development plans and strategies, within specific macroeconomic sectors or across sectors as applied to the macroeconomic environment as a whole. Greater computational power and constant increases in data collection and theoretical and modelling advances provide governments with a far greater

range and increasingly sophisticated set of tools for detailed analysis of impacts of proposed programmes and capacity to improve effectiveness and maximize inter-sectoral multiplier effects and positive spillovers. Interlinkages between development goals such as gender, health, and education on the one hand and economic livelihoods on the other are mutually reinforcing and therefore of prime importance for the application of planning models to address national challenges.

ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA) as part of the ESCAP mandate by member States to increase national capacities for macroeconomic planning, resilience and inclusive development has partnered with the SAARC Secretariat and the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal (NPC) to hold an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the development and application of MDG-consistent macroeconomic models for national planning in South Asia.

Given the use of macroeconomic models for planning and the interlinkages between national development plans and member State adoption of internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs, the EGM will highlight the value of the incorporation of such goals into development models to facilitate better targeting and spillovers as well as monitoring and reporting of international obligations whilst simultaneously working towards achieving national priorities and development targets. In addition, the adoption of other internationally agreed development goals, targets and priorities, especially in the context of the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs and the further implementation of the SAARC development goals, signifies the continued importance and utility of Goal-consistent macroeconomic models for South Asia and especially for South Asian member States that are least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. (LDCs and LLDCs).

As part of the analysis of good practices for MDG-consistent models, the EGM will also share the experience of the National Planning Commission of Nepal in the development and application of their MDG-consistent macroeconomic model, the MDGcMEM, and the utility of applying this or similar macroeconomic models to other contexts in South Asia. ESCAP-SSWA, SAARC Secretariat and NPC, along with key regional macroeconomic modelling experts, resource persons and national officials of planning agencies in South Asia, will consider the challenges and opportunities for the further application of such models into the national planning process.

### **Objective.**

Participants will develop an understanding of the conceptual, practical and empirical tools and challenges for developing MDG-consistent macroeconomic models and modifying existing national planning models. The EGM will:

- Raise awareness of specific issues in incorporating MDG-consistency in macroeconomic models in the South Asian context
- Improve knowledge-sharing and good practices in existing initiatives for MDG-consistent macroeconomic models, as applied to South Asian countries, in particular the development of Nepal's MDGcMEM economic model developed by the National Planning Commission
- Consider cross-cutting challenges for development and application of MDG-consistent macroeconomic models to planning and assessment strategies and structural changes in national and international macroeconomic environments, including the issue of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

## **Profile of the participants**

The EGM provides a setting for national planning officials, planning modellers and economists and experts from regional institutions, government, research organizations, international organizations from the eight countries of South Asia, to interact, share good practices on incorporating MDGs and broad-scale development goals into macroeconomic models, learn from each other, identify common and targeted solutions, and establish greater regional cooperation for improving national planning models and capacity. The United Nations will provide travel and daily subsistence allowance to selected participants from each country.

## **Organization**

The workshop is co-organized by ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal and the South Asia Association on Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Secretariat.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday 1 October and Wednesday 2 October 2013. The workshop will be conducted in English. Presentations by regional modelling experts, resource persons and planning officers in national governments will create the framework for discussions in each session.

Information on MDG-consistent macroeconomic plan models will largely be made available through documents, slides and links. The EGM will focus on sharing of tacit knowledge, informal dialogue among participants, and identification of regional good practices and options for regional knowledge collaboration.

## **Expected outcome**

A report will be prepared containing the summary of discussions, conclusions and recommendations. The presentations, documentation and other training or knowledge-sharing materials from this workshop will be incorporated into further capacity development activities and knowledge tools for adoption and incorporation of the MDGs and other development goals into national macroeconomic models. ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office will also incorporate the materials and event outcomes into its website and knowledge-sharing tools for distribution to governments, academics and civil society within South Asia and across the entire Asia-Pacific region.

## **Contact at ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office**

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**TENTATIVE PROGRAMME**

**Tuesday, 1 October 2013**

- 08:30 – 09:30            **Registration**
- 09:30 – 10:30           **Inaugural Session**  
*Welcome Remarks*  
**Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal**, Member Secretary , National Planning Commission of Nepal  
*Opening Remarks*  
**Dr. Nagesh Kumar**, Director, UNESCAP South and South West Asia Office, New Delhi  
**H. E. Mr. Ahmed Saleem**, Secretary-General of SAARC  
*Keynote Address: Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada*, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal  
*Inaugural Address: Hon'ble Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya*, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Nepal  
*Vote of thanks: Mr Puspa Lal Shakya*, Joint Secretary, NPC
- 10:30 – 11:00           **Group Photo and Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30           **Session 1: Key challenges and issues in incorporating MDG-consistency in the Macroeconomic Models in the South Asian Context**  
▪ This session will present the latest trends and practices in macroeconomic modelling in the region and its use in planning process and challenges encountered in making them consistent with MDGs.  
**Moderator: Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada**, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank,

Nepal

**Presenters:**

**Prof. N.R. Bhanumurthy**, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi

**Dr. Vaqar Ahmed**, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

▪ **Open discussion**

12:30 – 13:30

*Lunch Break*

13:30 – 15:00

**Session 2: MDGs Consistent Macroeconomic Model of Nepal**

- The main objective of this session is to review the development of macroeconomic modelling in Nepal and its use in planning process. This session will also review the policy options which the Nepal can pursue with a special focus on growth prospects.
- This session will discuss the MDGs consistent macroeconomic model prepared by Nepal and its use in planning process in Nepal.

**Moderator: Hon'ble Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya**, Vice-chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal

**Presenter: NPC/Nepal**

- **Open discussion**

15:00 – 15:15

*Coffee Break*

15:15 - 17:30

**Session 3**

**Sharing good practices in incorporating MDG consistency in Macroeconomic/ Plan Models in South Asian Countries**

**Moderator: Mr Dhan Bahadur Oli**, Director, SAARC Secretariat

Presentations by Planning Officials of:

**Afghanistan: Mr. Mostainbillah Balagh**, Deputy Director General for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Afghanistan

**Bhutan: Mr. Tandin Wangchuk**, Planning Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan

**Bangladesh: Mr. Md. Eakub Ali**, Joint Chief (Director General), Bangladesh Planning Commission, Dhaka

**India: Mr. Dinesh Kapila**, Director (Perspective Planning Division), Planning Commission, Government of India

**Maldives: Mr. Ahmed Naeem**, Senior Planning Officer, Department of National Planning, Ministry of Finance & Treasury, Government

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_6645](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_6645)

