



## Survey 2019-Ambitions Beyond Growth: UNESCAP

Recently a report, **Survey 2019: Ambitions Beyond Growth** was published by the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**.

- The aim of the report is to find out what will it take to realize the ambitious **2030 Agenda of sustainable development goals**.



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### Findings

- The report says that an additional annual investment of **\$1.5 trillion — equivalent to a dollar per person per day** — would allow countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- Survey finds that the **funds required for achieving the SDGs are within reach for many countries**, given their fiscal space and potential to leverage private investment.
- The report has urged the countries in the Asia Pacific to **look beyond mere economic growth**.
- Countries facing high and **growing levels of inequality and environmental degradation will have to change course from pursuing a growth path that neglects the people and the planet**.
- The report argues that keeping the old **paradigm of prioritizing GDP growth at all costs is neither feasible nor desirable**.
- Instead, UNESCAP proposes an investment package, equivalent to 5% of the combined GDP of Asia-Pacific developing countries in 2018, that includes:

- **\$669 billion to support basic human rights and develop human capacities**
- **\$590 billion to achieve clean energy for all and live in harmony with nature**
- **\$196 billion for improved access to transport, information and communications technology (ICT), and water and sanitation.**
- Emphasis on quality of education
  - **Significant savings could be achieved through a greater emphasis on education quality and outcomes.**
  - It cites UNESCO estimates in 2014 that globally, **\$129 billion was wasted annually due to the disconnect between schooling years and the acquisition of basic skills alone.**
  - Asia-Pacific developing countries **on average could save more than 30% through efficiency gains without compromising on education performance.**

### **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

- 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.
- It has **53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region including India.**
- **Established:** 1947
- **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand
- **Objective:** ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States.

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