

# Asia Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum

## Meeting the Commitments for Productive Employment and Universal Social Protection

8 - 9 April 2025 | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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### Background and context

The [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions](#) (GA) was launched by the UN Secretary-General to tackle the ongoing structural policy and financing deficits and support the necessary inclusive structural transformations required to accelerate decent job creation, universal social protection and achieve just transitions. The GA operates through three complementary and mutually supportive pillars: integrated and evidence-based national strategies and policies; integrated financing combining domestic resources and international financial support; and enhanced multilateral cooperation.

One key focus of the GA is strengthening the link between social protection and skills development to enable workers to navigate labour market transitions effectively, ensuring that income security measures are complemented by access to upskilling and reskilling opportunities. This integrated approach is particularly prominent in the Asia-Pacific region, where pathfinder countries are leveraging social protection policies not only as a foundation for economic security but also as a mechanism to drive workforce adaptability, formalization, and productivity in response to structural transformations and green, digital, economic and demographic transitions.

In the Asia Pacific region, the six pathfinder countries of the Global Accelerator – namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam – commit to further develop strong strategic skills and lifelong learning components integrated with social protection systems, which will serve to accelerate the just transition towards an inclusive, digitally-enabled and more environmentally sustainable economy.

Looking ahead to *the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development* and also as part of *the ASEAN Year of Skills 2025*, this forum will be an important platform for member states of the Asia Pacific region, and the ILO and UN partners more broadly to articulate the contribution of the GA approach and the collaboration model towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This Asia Pacific GA Policy Forum is intended to support the momentum and visibility of progress at the level of national implementation, while adding value through high-level policy exchange at the regional

scale. It will bring together policymakers, technical leads and tripartite constituents from the six GA pathfinder countries of the Asia Pacific region. The event will be co-hosted by ILO and the Royal Government of Cambodia, in close collaboration with UN partners.

## Objectives of the Asia Pacific GA Policy Forum

- To facilitate policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing to highlight the GA's value in integrating skills, employment policies and social protection within national development strategies.
- To build capacity among constituents on the policy integration across the skills and social protection nexus.
- To capture and share compelling examples of integrated policy approaches through case studies and the voices of beneficiaries.
- To promote the Global Accelerator among potential donors and development banks as a multi-stakeholder initiative, which provides a nationally owned development framework for policy coherence and interministerial coordination for advancing decent jobs and social protection.
- To support the region in reporting tangible progress on GA initiatives in Asia Pacific especially during the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development, which both take place in 2025.

The Forum is aimed at fostering policy dialogue and knowledge exchange, targeted to conclude with the development of an Output Report of the event. This will capture the approach and early-stage progress and learning from these six pathfinder countries, which will also have relevance as a resource for other Global Accelerator pathfinder countries, and for employment, skills and social-protection policy reform globally. Additionally, the forum will collate video case studies bringing the voices of beneficiaries to illustrate the real-life impacts for beneficiaries.

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