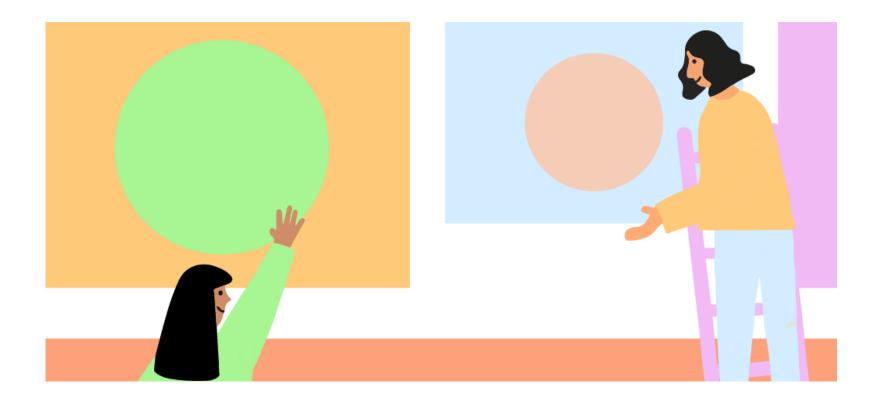


Call out to young artists to make art that spurs thinking, engagement and action at the United Nations ESCAP Sustainability & Innovation Corner in Bangkok, Thailand

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Sustainability & Innovation Corner



### **OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS**

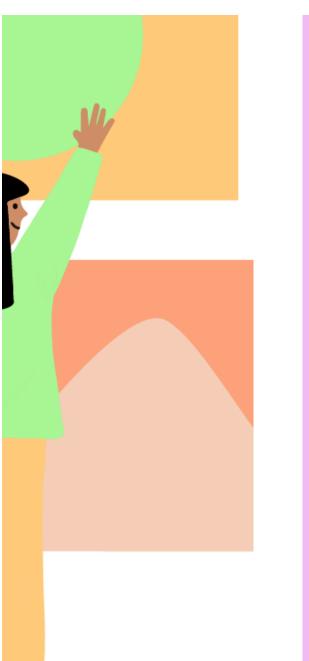
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is calling on young artists based in Thailand to create an exhibition concept and artwork for the United Nations ESCAP Sustainability & Innovation Corner. The selected artists will have the opportunity to permanently showcase their creation at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Artists may make submissions as individuals or teams.

#### CONTEXT

The United Nations ESCAP is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. It promotes cooperation among its 53 Member States and 9 associated members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges.

The United Nations Conference Centre is the largest UN Hub in Asia and the Pacific. It receives over 80,000 visitors every year including government officials, policymakers, private sector representatives, researchers, activists, UN personnel and the general public. The facility hosts a variety of events, regional thematic forums, intergovernmental meetings, technical training sessions, capacity-building workshops and other activities organized by the United Nations entities, partners, and external clients.

The whole facility is undergoing a facelift as a part of the UN ESCAP's continued efforts to provide a conducive environment for an innovative and forward-looking Conference Centre, also serving as a visual statement to popularize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UN premises. As part of the new design, a corner space will be dedicated to showcasing the sustainable development and innovation work of ESCAP, Member States and other UN system entities.



#### Sustainability @ ESCAP

The United Nations Compound in Bangkok has established an Environmental Management System (EMS) to reduce the environmental impacts of its facilities and operations and align its in-house management with the SDGs.

#### **ESCAP** Innovation

Innovation is critical for the United Nations to promptly meet new needs in a rapidly changing world. ESCAP is actively working on ensuring that its projects, knowledge products and platforms, and internal processes adopt innovative approaches to better support the region and the people that ESCAP serves. Key ESCAP innovations including partnership projects with Member States and other UN system entities will be showcased at the Sustainability and Innovation Corner.



# **ESCAP SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION CORNER**

A permanent and rotational exhibition corner on the 1st floor of the United Nations Conference Centre that creates an immersive and engaging experience for visitors. The space will host two interconnected themes and exhibitions:

#### 1. The environmental sustainability & climate action exhibition

Presents ESCAP's greening journey, performance and progress indicators in the several environmental action areas (energy, waste, water, travel, meetings, awareness campaigns). Engages visitors with tools to interact, calculate their carbon footprint, and explore ways to reduce emissions. The aim is to inspire countries, organizations, communities and individuals to act on the climate crisis through practical ways.

#### 2. Innovation exhibition

From using Artificial Intelligence to data science and digital technologies in daily operations, this exhibit showcases novel ideas and innovative thinking that are flourishing in ESCAP. It also captures pioneering projects being implemented by ESCAP in the Asia-Pacific region. The aim is to inform visitors that innovative thinking must be the new normal in our rapidly changing world and promote synergies with stakeholders in the region (Member States, civil society, private sector, NGOs, youth, other UN entities and international organizations).

The thematic exhibition space will potentially expand to showcase the projects of ESCAP Member States and other UN system entities. The space may also showcase innovative technologies for sustainable development in the near future.

The overall aim of the space is to inspire climate action and innovation for the SDGs, allow interaction, exchange, networking, and smaller events.

### CURRENT & FUTURE PHYSICAL SPACE

Currently, the area assigned to the Corner is a coffee break and registration counter for meeting participants. The counter and existing finishes will be removed by the renovation team to free up the space and allow for exhibitions and interactive spaces.

Through the renovation, the existing corner will be transformed into a space for exhibitions and people interaction. Mostly walls, ceilings and floors will be used to communicate to the visitors. Environmental sustainability and innovation themes shall be reflected in the proposed design.

The artists will be in charge of the design and integration of artistic and engagement elements along the walls and space, once the preparatory works are completed (removal of existing elements and preparation of walls for the artists' work). Adjustable lighting will be installed to meet different space use needs as well as multimedia equipment (tablets, projector screen, speakers, and sound system for recorded and live presentations).

Versatility in the use of the space will be ensured to allow for sprint and popup network events as well as banqueting when needed. This could be achieved by:

- Foldable and movable furniture in the space when needed
- Integrating a movable counter



### **ARTISTS' ROLE**

Artists will be in charge of the design and integration of artistic and engagement elements along the walls and space, once the preparatory works are completed, including:

- Review with the ESCAP team the materials requirements for the corner design and artwork including environmental sustainability considerations in the choice of materials (recycled materials, local organic materials, etc.). The cost of materials will be covered by ESCAP.
- Produce the proposed decorations and artwork on walls, ceilings, and floors
- Create wall integrated/hanged selfie booth covering the two themes
- Ensure timely and effective communication with the ESCAP team

#### TIMELINE

- Artists must register their interest (as individuals or as a team) via this form <u>(link)</u> by 11 December 2022.
- UN Conference Centre will be open for in-person tour and Q&A with the ESCAP team (for registered artists only) during 14-15 December 2022.
- Registered artists must propose a concept and design for the exhibition corner reflecting the innovation and environmental sustainability themes by **15 January 2023**.
- ESCAP team will announce winning entries by **20 January 2023**.
- Winning artists are expected to produce their designs between January and March 2023.
- The Sustainability & Innovation Corner will be inaugurated on **30 March 2023**.

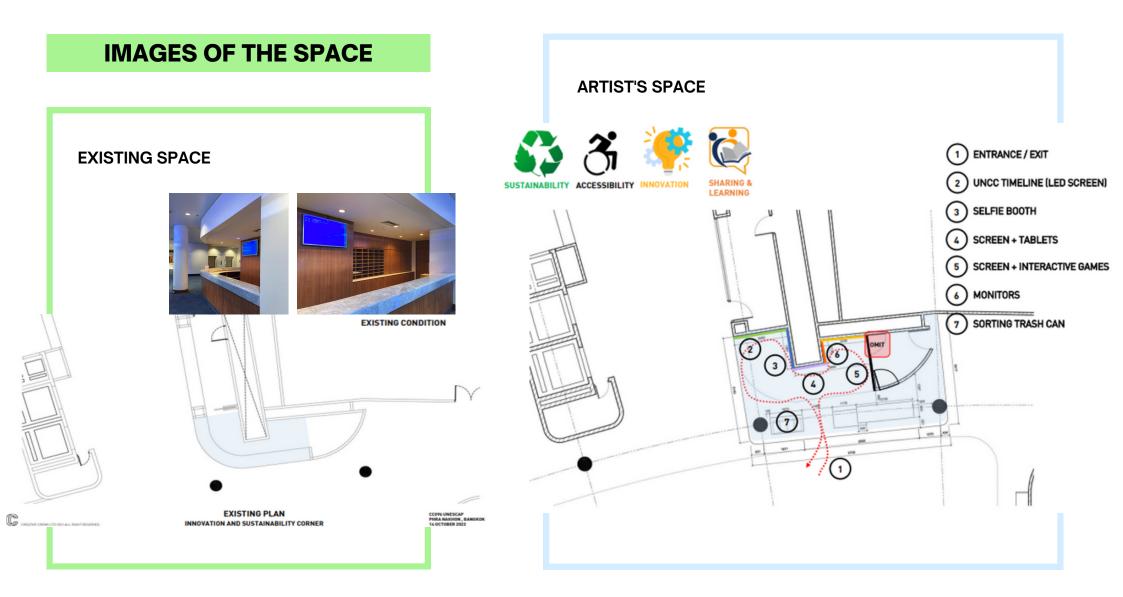
### **ENVISAGED ELEMENTS, ACTIVITIES & EXPO IDEAS**

- Art integration: Sustainability and innovation themes are reflected in the design of the main walls, ceilings and artwork created by artists.
- Communication material: Semi-fixed content showing <u>ESCAP greening</u> journey, sustainability report with interactive dashboards and steps to go green. Combination of fixed material that does not require regular updates to ensure sustainability and screens with material that will be updated regularly (annual reports, etc.). Touchscreens/ tablets for interactive experience (carbon calculator, games, quizzes, interactive dashboards, etc.). Spots for rotating content using a combination of screens or other installations to exhibit the innovation initiatives of ESCAP, Member States and UN agencies.
- Selfie booth: Space dedicated to selfies focusing on the innovation & environmental sustainability themes. The selfie booth aims to encourage visitors and staff to support the awareness campaign in the two thematic areas (climate action & innovation for the SDGs) by posting their selfies on social media.
- Networking/Interactions: Live interactions, such as regular innovation chats and networking events, in the format of pop-up exchanges and sprint meetings; brown bag meeting-style for short presentations that spotlight good practices and innovation initiatives; innovation clinics and consultations with peers and experts on a specific topic.
- **Technology:** To create awareness of practical actions in the two interconnected themes, there is a possibility to showcase innovative technologies such as hologram, virtual or augmented reality and others as they become available.

### ENVISAGED USER EXPERIENCE

- Background music and/or rotational videos about sustainability and innovation (environmental sustainability efforts, team members talking about the innovation work at ESCAP, division's innovations, etc.).
- Touchscreens/ tablets for interactive experience (carbon calculator, games, quizzes, interactive dashboards, etc.).
- Call to action space or open challenge features for people to provide ideas or suggestions on a specific issue in a Miro board via QR code/ tablet or physical whiteboard, or on social media.
- Physical or virtual frames and filters for selfies with innovation and sustainability-related messages.
- Use of game elements, such as light or physical buttons for interactions with the wall related to energy, waste and other environmental aspects.
- Carbon footprint personal and corporate calculator.
- Mirrors in geometry at the ceiling for selfies and pictures with effect angles (if proposed by artists in their concept).





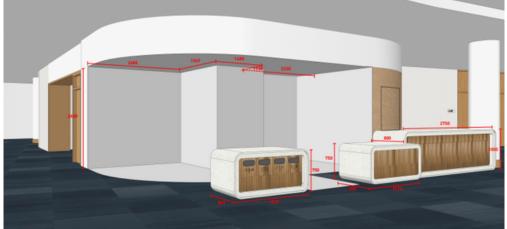


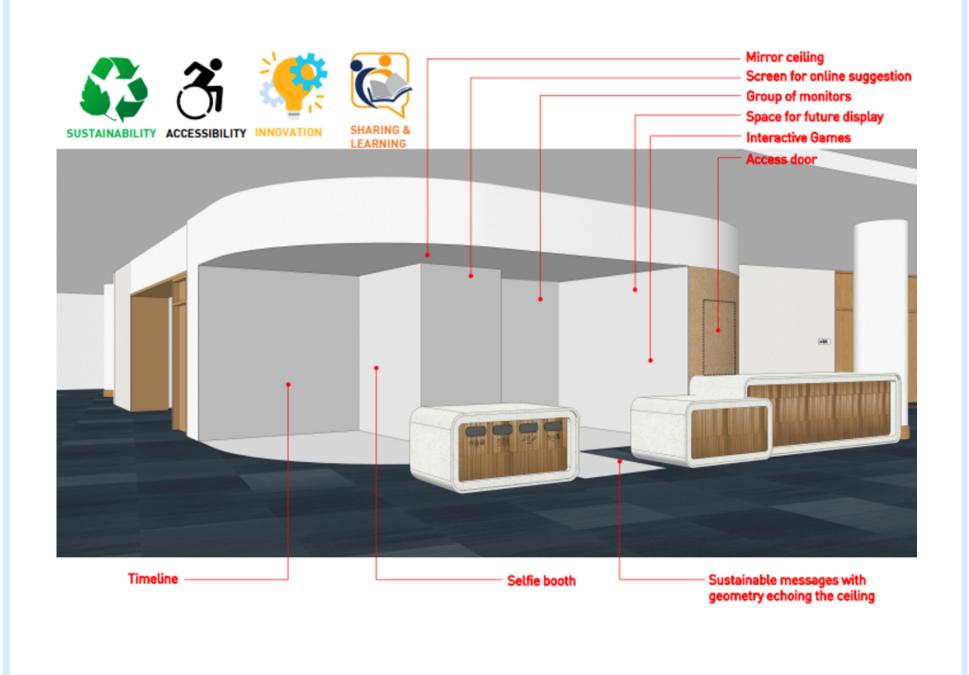












#### SAMPLE DESIGN OF FUTURE SPACE

#### Important notice:

All images included under this section are purely indicative to inform artists of the expected components of the space. The style and colors shown are not a requirement.

Artists are encouraged to propose alternative arrangements and innovative solutions, different artistic styles, and integrate any form of art based on their specialty and aesthetics.









geometry echoing the ceiling



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More information about ESCAP can be found on <u>www.unescap.org</u>