

# Strengthening of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

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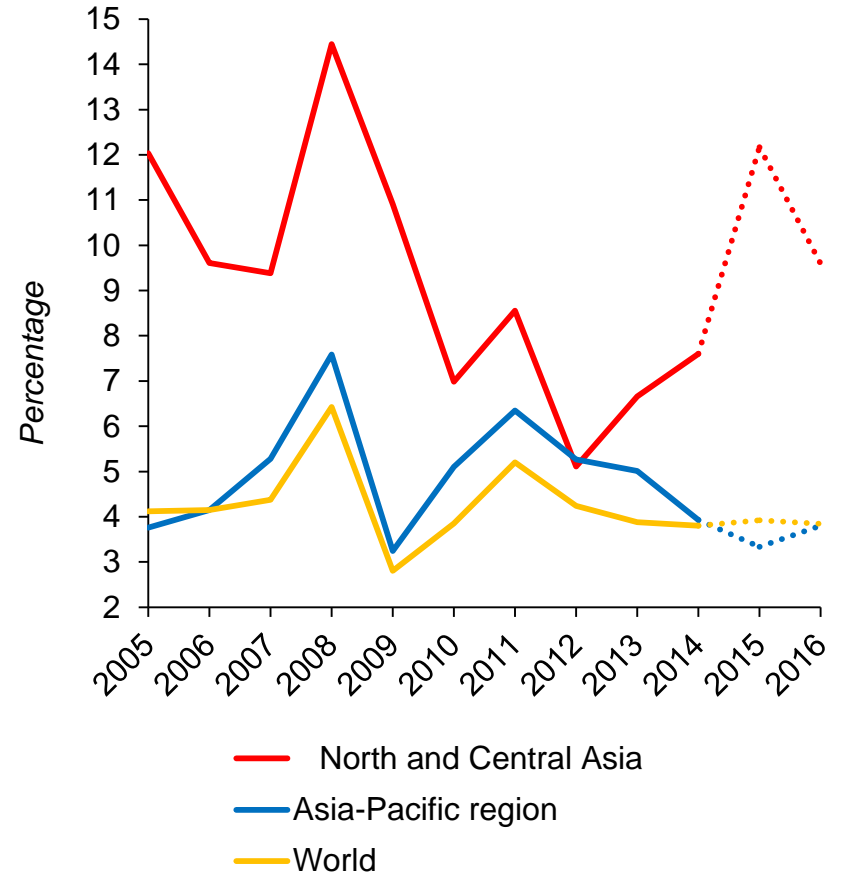
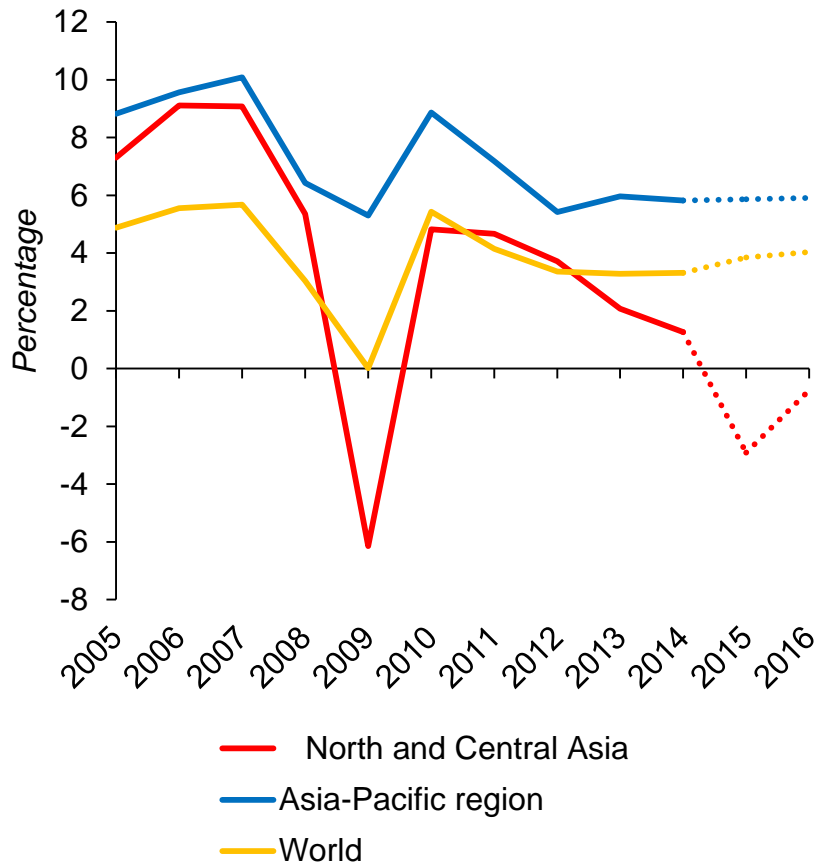
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# Decline in oil prices and geopolitical tensions leading to a low-growth-high-inflation outlook

Real GDP growth



# North and Central Asia: Opportunities

**Infrastructure connectivity** as a key to addressing these economic challenges:

- A strategy for diversification of economy through enhanced trade competitiveness and regional and global integration
- Investment as tool for countercyclical fiscal policy and for linking NCA to long term outlook of Asia-Pacific as global growth pole
- Modern infrastructure that supports efficient resource-use and promotes an integrated and coherent framework of sustainable development

# ESCAP subregional office: focus areas

Leveraging on increased outward orientation: Regional connectivity through **Transport, ICT and energy infrastructure** development:

- Transport, ICT and energy as mutually beneficial areas of cooperation encompassing key transit countries and potential investors
- Exploiting global boom in infrastructure financing (e.g. World Bank, AIIB) through facilitation and partnerships
- Providing and promoting analytical work by identifying and promoting new corridors of connectivity, e.g. between NCA and SSWA
- Aligning with core development mandates, such as SDGs, Vienna Programme of Action, ESCAP Resolutions 70/1; 71/4
- Cooperating with regional partners, TASIM, WB's CAFON, ISOC



# Introduction to SPECA

United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

- To support the member countries in promoting:
  - Intra-regional cooperation
  - Economic development
  - Integration into the economies of Europe and Asia
- Project Working Groups (PWGs):
  - Water and energy resources
  - Transport and border crossing
  - Trade
  - Statistics
  - **Knowledge-based development**
  - Gender and Economy

# ESCAP/ECE SPECA

Strengthening of SPECA as a mechanism of subregional cooperation on implementation of SDGs

- SPECA as one institutional mechanism for member states to coordinate and monitor implementation of SDGs
- SPECA as a platform for promoting synergies with other programmes and connectivity projects, e.g. SPECA/CAREC/TASIM
- Align governance structure of SPECA (GC and Working groups) with SDGs:

# Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development

- Established following the decision by the SPECA Governing Council taken at its second session (Berlin, 14 November 2007)
- PWG KBD objectives are:
  - Promote policies facilitate cooperation
  - Support capacity building
  - Serve as a forum for discussion
- PWG KBD works in areas such as
  - Promoting innovation
  - Promoting seamless ICT infrastructure
  - Financing infrastructure, and public-private partnerships



# Strengthening SPECA

- 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council and a Brainstorming session
  - SPECA is UN-driven; re-examine approach
  - Internal evaluation through questionnaires
  - Results will be presented next GC
  - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan
  - Discussion with UN partners on strengthening SPECA within the context of Post-2015 arrangements



# SPECA in Post-2015 Development Agenda

- SPECA's role could be strengthened by simultaneous progress in:
  - Increased political support and involvement by participating countries
  - More in-kind and financial support to SPECA activities by participating countries
  - More pro-active involvement of participating countries in donor coordination
  - Improved coordination, e.g. through TASIM/CAREC/SPECA linkages and others such as CAFON
  - Enhanced relevance as an institutional mechanism for monitoring implementation of SDGs

# ESCAP's support for SPECA

- Support the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action
- Strengthen its cooperation with SPECA
- ESCAP will continue to support SPECA efforts through:
  - Focus on regional connectivity using ESCAP's region-wide outreach
  - Establishing coordination and cooperation with other programmes and organizations
  - Continuing close coordination with partner organizations, such as World Bank



# Thank you

For more information:  
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