



ASIA PACIFIC CSO FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017: Prosperity for Whom?: Asserting Development Justice in a Changing Asia and Pacific

26 - 28 March 2017

Novou City Hotel, Samsen Road,
Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Sustainable development has been the subject of considerable global discussions and negotiations over the past three decades, and the United Nations has served as the main forum for these discussions. In 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the newly established intergovernmental body High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development to provide higher level of leadership for sustainable development. Rio+20 also decided to adopt a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which were incorporated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 after 18 months of intense intergovernmental processes. The new framework – which is composed of 17 goals and 169 targets will guide the global efforts to fight inequality, poverty and tackle the impact of climate change and environmental crises over the next 15 years.

The call for Development Justice still continues in the current struggles to determine how the A2030 will be carried out at the regional and national levels. In the on-going global process of implementing the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, the regional commissions of the United Nations are mandated to feed regional perspectives into the global implementation process through regional preparatory meetings¹.

As the regional commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has convened the annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) since 2014.

¹ The United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/290



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2015
Helping stakeholders shape new global goals for humanity's future

This year the theme of APFSD 2017 will be in line with the HLPF 2017 theme: “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia and Pacific” which focuses on goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17. The APFSD 2017 will also adopt a Regional Roadmap on Implementing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific.

The Asia and Pacific Regional Roadmap will address regional priorities and dimensions of the 2030 Agenda that would most benefit from a regional approach in implementation. The Roadmap was a recommendation of Asia-Pacific CSOs during the APFSD 2015² which clearly articulated the vision for a people-centered regional roadmap. The Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCSEM), an open and inclusive platform of CSOs in the region, believes that a people-centered regional roadmap - developed with meaningful engagement of civil society - will offer concrete steps for effective regional cooperation and evaluation, which will benefit the developing and least developing countries, and countries and populations with special needs, as they set out to implement the 2030 Agenda. The final roadmap will be agreed at the next session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in March 2017.

With regards to environmental dimension of sustainable development, there will be two important fora organised by UN Environment in 2017: the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) and Asia Pacific Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities. The 2nd regional forum will take place in September 2017, and will be an important platform to identify regional priorities and strengthening the engagements of countries in the preparation and follow-up sessions of the United Nation Environment Assembly (UNEA). The third session of UNEA (UNEA-3) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 6 December, 2017, and preceded by the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum which will take place from 2 to 3 December 2017. UNEA-3 will focus on opportunities for achieving a pollution free planet and developing an international action agenda to address some of the most pervasive forms of pollution, including in its’ relation with the achievement of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

It has been proven that participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in these processes is highly important and provide opportunities to CSOs to make substantive contribution to shape regional processes that will actively engage CSOs in assessing progress on sustainable development in the long term. In order for CSO participation in APFSD to be effective and representative, a CSO forum to discuss their views and jointly develop a common position on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be necessary.

² In order to be relevant, a regional review mechanism must be guided by substantive regional roadmap that includes regionally relevant issues both within and outside the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which also include the assessment of the impact of trade, technology and investment. The roadmap must be based on development justice anchored in redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice and accountability for the people. It must include strong accountability, grievance and redress mechanism for individuals when their rights are violated. – AP-RCEM Collective statement for APFSD 2015

In this context, ESCAP in collaboration with the AP-RCEM will organize a three-day civil society consultation meeting “Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development (APCSD)” from 26 - 28 March 2017 in the lead-up to the APFSD. Some participants of the CSO forum will be funded and provided the opportunity to join the official APFSD 2017.

Purpose and objectives

The APCSF will be organised prior to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2016, convened by ESCAP, 29 - 31 March 2017).

Following on the progress of the region in bringing the concept of Development Justice to global attention and the establishment of Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development will be a forum for civil society organisations to work together and consolidate their position & recommendations for a regional sustainable development agenda. Asia-Pacific civil society organisations from different sectors and countries will come together and explore common ground and actions, develop common messages and coordinate strategies for more effective participation in the regional intergovernmental processes on sustainable development. The APCSF will specifically aim to;

1. Inform and build capacity of civil society participants on sustainable development at the global and regional levels, and on the opportunities and modalities for engaging these processes;
2. Provide a space for dialogue on the structure and content of the APFSD with its’ theme “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in Changing Asia and Pacific” and upcoming UNEA-3 with the theme “Pollution Free Planet”. Formulate joint civil society positions building on Asia-Pacific civil society messages on 2030 Agenda, Regional Roadmap and UNEA-3 theme; as well as strategize interventions at the APFSD.
3. Facilitate sharing and exchange on critical issues faced by the various constituencies and discuss alignments and areas of partnership/cooperation;
4. Reflect on the work of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism in 2015-2017, specifically in relation to the implementation and monitoring of 2030 Agenda in the region.
5. Agree on joint actions and follow up to civil society positions adopted.

Target audience

The intended participants are mainly active CSOs from Asia-Pacific engaged in sustainable development at the local, national and regional levels from economic, social and environmental dimensions. With the formation of APRCEM that includes a structure which goes beyond the 9 major groups (5 sub-regions and 17 constituencies), the APCSF will reach out to broader CSOs to encourage new and relevant organisations to engage with regional civil society efforts on sustainable development, as well as to engage with the UN mechanisms and institutions.

The forum will aim to include over 150 participants from different organisations with equitable geographical, thematic, sectoral and gender representation. Geographical representatives include (1) Pacific, (2) East/North East Asia, (3) North/Central Asia, (4) South/SouthWest Asia, (5) Southeast Asia. Participation will include grassroots and local organizations as well as national and regional organizations from the following groups: (1) NGOs, (2) Women, (3) Youth, (4) Social and Community Enterprise, (5) Farmers, (6) Trade Union/Workers, (7) Science and Technology, (8) Indigenous Peoples, (9) Urban Poor, (10) Migrants, (11) Persons With Disability, (12) People living and affected by HIV and AIDS, (13) LGBTI, (14) Older People, (15) People affected with conflicts and disasters, and (16) Fisherfolks and 17) Local Authorities. CSOs across thematic areas relevant to sustainable development are also targeted as participants.

As a platform aimed to harness grassroots voices, APRCEM encourages the participation of grassroots and peoples' movement organisations work on the issue of sustainable development in both CSO Forum and APFSD.

Strategic outreach is organised by the Regional Coordinating Committee of the Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCC-RCEM). The RCC has established a database of Asia Pacific CSOs and will conduct outreach through Skype calls, webinars, forum discussions and emails and also through its regional CSO website for wider outreach. ESCAP will also upload an online call for participation and outreach through its CSO network.

Geographic Scope

The forum aims to bring CSO representatives from Asia Pacific region to discuss sustainable development issues in Asia Pacific region. The outcome of the forum is expected to feed into the intergovernmental discussions at APFSD, which will take place in the context of global HLPF process, as well as inform broader CSO positions on sustainable development in the region.

About APRCEM

APRCEM is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes in regional and global level. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the CSOs, and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member States across the region on the issue of sustainable development. As an open, inclusive, and flexible mechanism, RCEM is designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs in the region, harness the voice of grassroots and peoples' movements to advance development justice that address the inequalities of wealth, power, resources between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women."

Draft Programme

As 20 March 2017

Objectives

1. Inform and build capacity of civil society participants on sustainable development at the global and regional levels, and on the opportunities and modalities for engaging these processes;
2. Provide a space for dialogue on the structure and content of the APFSD with its' theme "Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in Changing Asia and Pacific" and upcoming UNEA-3 with the theme "Pollution Free Planet".
3. Formulate joint civil society positions building on Asia-Pacific civil society messages on 2030 Agenda, Regional Roadmap and UNEA-3 theme; as well as strategize interventions at the APFSD.
4. Facilitate sharing and exchange on critical issues faced by the various constituencies and discuss alignments and areas of partnership/cooperation;
5. Reflect on the work of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism in 2015-2017, specifically in relation to the implementation and monitoring of 2030 Agenda in the region.
6. Agree on joint actions and follow up to civil society positions adopted.

| March 26 Day 1 | |
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| 8:00am-9:00am | Registration |
| 9:00am-10:00am | <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Wardarina, APWLD Marjorie Pamintuan, APRN Ranja Sengupta, TWN - Co-Chairs of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) • Mr. Stefanos Fotiou* Director of Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP • Dr. Dechen Tsering Regional Director and Representative, UN Environment Asia and Pacific <p>Video Presentation In Search for Development Justice</p> <p>Introduction of Participants</p> <p>Introduction of Programme</p> |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | <p>Session 1. Exploring Regional Trends in Asia Pacific: Identifying Systemic Barriers</p> <p><i>This session will discuss what are the regional trends, issues, and also barriers that will impact the achievement of sustainable development in the region, particularly in relation with "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in changing Asia and Pacific". Survey results will be presented, and will be followed by a discussion by CSO speakers from the grassroots and experts.</i></p> |

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| | <p>Moderator: Karin Fernando CEPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Hakena Leitana Nehan Women Development Agency, Papua New Guinea, People Affected by Conflict and Disasters Constituency • Sringatin Asia Migrants Coordinating Body, Indonesia Migrant Workers Union, Hong Kong, Migrants Constituency • Myra Vieta G. Mabilin Urban Poor Resource Center of the Philippines, Urban Poor Constituency • Azra Talat Sayeed – Roots for Equity, Farmers Constituency |
| 11.00 – 11.15 | <p>Tea Break</p> |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | <p>Session 1. Exercise Activity: Identifying Systemic Barriers to Achieving the SDGs</p> <p><i>This activity will explore what are the new and emerging systemic barriers that prevent the achievement of the SDGs. The activity will allow the participants to post what they think are the issues that are not mentioned in the panels and survey and will be summarized by the moderators.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Wardarina APWLD, Karin Fernando CEPA</p> |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | <p>Lunch Break</p> |
| 13:00 – 15:30 | <p>Session 2. Global and Regional Processes for Follow up and Review and the Realities of Engagement: Architecture for the implementation of the SDGs</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the interlinkages of the global, regional, subregional, and national processes involved in the implementation and review of the SDGs, and how CSOs are engaging them.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Simon Holberg Olsen IGES</p> <p>Overview on the Follow Up and Review of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Linkages between HLPF and APFSD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hitomi Rankine* Environment and Development Division, UN ESCAP ○ Joan Carling* Tebtebba, Indigenous Peoples Constituency • Commentaries from the participants – Linkages of sub-regional processes to the APFSD and HLPF (SAARC, ASEAN, PIF, etc) <p>Q&A and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Upcoming UNEA-3 and its' linkages to 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alexander Juras Chief, Civil Society Unit, UN Environment, Nairobi ○ Maria Finesa Cosico AGHAM, Science and Technology Constituency |

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| | <p>Q&A and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation on Politics of Indicators and Development Justice Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kate Lappin APWLD, Women Constituency ○ Commentaries from the floor - National processes on Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rebecca Malay – PRRM, The Philippines ▪ Sarah Zaman – Shirkat Gah, Pakistan <p>Q&A and Discussion</p> |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Break |
| 15:45 – 17:30 | <p>Session 3. National Process for Follow up and Review: the VNRs</p> <p><i>This session will invite speakers from VNR countries (previous and current year) to discuss how their governments are doing the reports, progress on achievements of SDGs, national level architecture for implementation and accountability, and what are the CSO initiatives to monitor and report on the SDGs. The issue of pollution/integration of the environment in the goals will also be highlighted in the discussion.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ajay Jha CECODECON</p> <p>Kick-Off Panels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reflections from Representatives from 2016 VNR Countries ● Discussion by Representatives from 2017 VNR Countries <p>Interactive Activity</p> <p>VNR Desks: Nine VNR countries will have separate desks where participants can freely approach, listen to the discussions, and ask questions</p> |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | <p>Report back on the VNR desks</p> <p>Closing Day 1 and Announcement</p> |
| 19:00 - end | ETC Dinner Side Event |
| March 27 Day 2 | |
| 9:00-11:00 | Session 4. Achieving Development Justice within Planetary Boundaries |

Towards UNEA 3: Achieving a World Without Pollution

This panel session with UNEP representatives and CSOs will explore how environment is integrated with the two other pillars of sustainable development and in the implementation of the SDGs. UNEP will present UNEA 3 priorities followed by inputs from CSOs on UNEA-3 themes and CSOs' perspectives on achieving environmental justice in the context of sustainable development. A dialogue between UNEP and CSOs will follow. CSO speakers will focus their deliberation on 1) the trend and problem of pollution in Asia and Pacific region, 2) Vision of pollution free world, 3) How and what needs to change to achieve the vision of pollution free world.

Moderator: April Porteria | Center for Environmental Concerns – providing the synthesis and linkages.

Presentation from UN Environment Asia and Pacific

- Regional Overview on Pollution in Asia and Pacific | Isabelle Louis and Subrata Sinha, UN Environment Asia and Pacific

Discussion with CSO Speakers:

- Food waste and contamination, soil contamination, GMO/genetic pollution, pesticides, fertilizer, land issues, linkage to mining and mine tailings | Wali Haider, Roots for Equity
- Health and gender- antibiotic resistance, climate indoor and outdoor pollution for women and children in Asia and Pacific | Women Constituency Representative
- Marine pollution, fresh water pollution, oceans, microplastics and the linkage between terrestrial pollution and marine pollution (agriculture toxic waste, mining | Pacific Subregional / Fisherfolks Constituency Representative
- Waste – Industrial pollution, occupational hazards, e-waste | trade union and workers representative

Overview on the cross-linkages

Q&A and Discussion

11: 00 – 11:15

Coffee Break

11:15 – 11: 45

Session 5. Peoples' Priorities on Sustainable Development

The parallel workshops will provide venues for constituencies and thematic working groups to discuss the regional people's priorities for the HLPF theme and focus goals, also highlighting the integration of economic, social and environmental pillars (including pollution) in the implementation of and reporting on the themes. The parallel workshops will attempt to answer the following guide questions:

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| | <p>Moderator: Cai Yiping Dawn</p> <p>Presentation of ESCAP Survey Results on SDGs Cluster Goals</p> <p>Instruction for Parallel Workshops on SDGs Clusters Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the priority areas of the region in the specific goals (e.g pollution, GMO, etc) and whether the SDGs can deliver them? 2) What are the opportunities and challenges to deliver these? 3) What can governments and CSOs do to address these priorities? (recommendations) <p>Discussion format: Each of the workshops should have a facilitator and rapporteur. The reports from each of the workshops will feed into the CSO statement for the APFSD and the HLPF, as well as inputs to UNEA-3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 30 mins presentations from CSOs and UNEP o 1 hour discussion | | |
| 11:45 – 14:15 | <p>Workshop 1: Poverty</p> <p>Coordinators: <i>Urban Poor Migrants</i></p> | <p>Workshop 2: Land/Sustainable Agriculture/Food Sovereignty</p> <p>Coordinators: <i>Farmers Constituency Indigenous Peoples Constituency</i></p> | <p>Workshop 3: Health</p> <p>Coordinators: <i>People Living with and affected by HIV SRHR Working group Persons with Disability</i></p> |
| 14:15 – 15:15 | <p>Lunch Break</p> | | |
| 15:15 - 15:45 | <p>Workshop 4: Gender Equality and Women’s Rights</p> <p>Coordinators: <i>Women constituency SRHR working group</i></p> | <p>Workshop 5: Industrialization, Infrastructure</p> <p>Coordinators: <i>NGO Constituency S&T Constituency Accountability WG Trade union and workers Social and community enterprises</i></p> | <p>Workshop 6: Ocean/Seas</p> <p>Coordinators: Pacific Subregions Fisherfolks Constituency</p> |

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| 15:45 – 16:15 | Put together outputs - make a coherent picture |
| 16:15 – 16:30 | Coffee Break |
| 16:30 - 18:00 | <p>Session 6. Means of Implementation: Moving from Global to Regional <i>This discussion will tackle updates on MOI, including science, technology and innovation, financing for development, and partnerships and how they are impacting the implementation of the A2030 (with focus on the HLPF themes) in the region.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Kate Lappin APWLD Overview and the setting of global governance framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technology - Neth Dano ETC Group ○ Trade - Ranja Sengupta TWN ○ Tax and illicit financial flows - Neeti Biyani Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability ○ Official Development Assistance – Yodhim Dela Rosa RoA-AP <p><i>Open Forum</i></p> <p><i>Interactive Session:</i></p> <p>Participants will be asked to answers on how guide questions on how to shape the MOI in the region and post their answers on the wall.</p> <p><i>Strategy discussion</i></p> |
| 18:00 – 18:30 | <p>Closing of day 2 and announcements</p> <p>Drafting team meeting</p> |
| March 28 Day 3 | |
| 09:00 – 11:00 | <p>Session 7. Engaging UN and Member States in Asia Pacific: Progress and Setbacks <i>Discussion on the progress and setbacks at national and regional level and follow up on CSO engagement on sustainable development: What have they done to open up to CSO engagement (ESCAP divisions and the RCM), what have CSOs done to reach out to them, what can be done to move forward. Framing it to continuing interest of the UN on partnership with private sector.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Malu Marin Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stefanos Fotiou Environment and Development Division ○ Ms.Susan Frances Stone Trade Division ○ Mitch Hsieh Secretary of the Commission ○ Heike Alefsen UNDG ○ FAO ○ Isabelle Louis UN Environment Asia and the Pacific Office |

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| | <p>CSO speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shrinking space at regional level Marjorie Pamintuan APRN ○ Shrinking space at national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aizhamal Bakashova* PA Shazet (Kyrgyzstan) ▪ Reasey Seng* SILAKA (Cambodia) ▪ Disability Constituency Representatives <p><i>Open Forum</i></p> |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Coffee Break |
| 11:15 – 12:15 | <p>Session 8. Presentation of the APRCEM progress report by RCEM RCC/AG Wardarina, APWLD</p> <p>Moderator : Gomer Padong Philsen</p> |
| 12:15 – 13:15 | Lunch Break |
| 13:15 – 16:15 | <p>Session 9. Building our Collective Strategy</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the long-term strategy work to strengthen the capacity of Asia Pacific CSOs’ – particularly grassroots and peoples’ movement – to monitor the implementation of 2030 Agenda and other relevant processes, as well as to shape CSOs engagement with the UN systems across the region in national regional and international forum.</i></p> <p><i>This session will give space to CSOs to share on the possible collaborative works</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thematic working group meetings - SRHR, Trade and Investment, Environment Macroeconomic Policy, Land, Energy, Accountability - 1 hour ● Constituency Meetings – 1 hour ● Putting it all together - Debriefing – 1 hour |
| 16:15 – 16:30 | Coffee Break |
| 16:30 – 17:45 | <p>Session 10.</p> <p>Deliberation of Youth Statement Deliberation of the CSO statement for UNEP Deliberation and Discussion of CSO Statement for APFSD</p> |
| 17:45 – 18:15 | Session 11. Strategising for APFSD |
| 18:15 – 18:30 | Closing Remarks, Announcements |