



Asia Pacific **CSO** Forum on 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

Organised by:



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ASIA PACIFIC **CSO** FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017:

Prosperity for Whom? Asserting Development Justice in a Changing Asia and Pacific

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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	
8:00am-9:00am	Registration
9:00am-10:00am	Opening Remarks <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) (10 mins) • Dr. Shamshad Akhtar Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP (10 mins) • Dr. Dechen Tsering Regional Director and Representative, UN Environment Asia and Pacific (10 mins) <p>Video Presentation In Search for Development Justice (15 mins)</p> <p>Introduction of Participants (10 mins) - Gomer Padong & Aaron Ceradoy</p> <p>Introduction of Programme (5 mins) - Marjorie Pamintuan</p>
10:00 – 11:00	Session 1. Exploring Regional Trends in Asia Pacific: Identifying Systemic Barriers <i>This session will discuss what are the regional trends, issues, and also barriers that will impact the</i>

	<p><i>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> <p>Moderator: Karin Fernando CEPA</p> <p>What are systemic issues? What are systemic barriers? Our 5 systemic barriers – 5 mins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Hakena Leitana Nehan Women Development Agency, Papua New Guinea, People Affected by Conflict and Disasters Constituency (7 mins) • Sringatin Asia Migrants Coordinating Body, Indonesia Migrant Workers Union, Hong Kong, Migrants Constituency (7 mins) • Myra Vieta G. Mabilin Urban Poor Resource Center of the Philippines, Urban Poor Constituency – video presentation (7 mins) • Sarah Zaman – Fundamentalism, Militarism and Conflict, Patriarchy (7 mins) • Azra Talat Sayeed Roots for Equity, Farmers Constituency (15 mins) <p>Moderator – the result of the survey and the instruction for the exercise session (8 mins)</p>
11.00 – 11.15	Tea Break
11.15 – 12.00	<p>Contd’ Session 1. Exercise Activity: Identifying Systemic Barriers to Achieving the SDGs</p> <p><i>This activity will explore what are the other 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><i>Activity : 30 mins</i></p> <p><i>Summary Discussion : 30 mins</i></p> <p>Moderators: Wardarina APWLD, Karin Fernando CEPA</p>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch Break
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 HLPF - APFSD – FUR Processes (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Linkages between HLPF and APFSD – 1 hour 5 mins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hitomi Rankine Environment and Development Division, UN ESCAP (15 mins), including roadmap ○ Joan Carling Tebtebba, Indigenous Peoples Constituency (15 mins) ○ Commentaries from the participants – Linkages of sub-regional processes to the APFSD and HLPF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SAARC – Daya Sagar Shrestha, NGO ▪ ASEAN - Maulani, ASEAN Development ▪ PIF – Viva Tatawaqa, DIVA ▪ Zarima – Central Asia (tbc) – 5 mins each <p>Q&A and Discussion – 10 mins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Upcoming UNEA-3 and its’ linkages to 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development 45 mins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alexander Juras Chief, Civil Society Unit, UN Environment, Nairobi (15 mins) ○ Maria Finesa Cosico AGHAM, Science and Technology Constituency (15 mins) <p>Q&A and Discussion – 15 mins</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation on Politics of Indicators and Development Justice Indicators (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sai ARROW, Women Constituency (15 mins) ○ Commentaries from the floor - National processes on Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rebecca Malay* – PRRM, The Philippines (8 mins) ▪ Sarah Zaman – Shirkat Gah, Pakistan (8 mins) <p>Q&A and Discussion (15 mins)</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 18:00	<p>Session 3. National Process for Follow up and Review: the VNRs <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: Jyotsna Pandey Singh Asia Development Alliance and Malu S. Marin </p> <p>Kick-Off Panels: Reflections from Representatives from 2016 VNR Countries (10 mins) – highlight the lessons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise K.H Yoon Korean Civil Society Network of SDGs (5 mins) • Gomer Padong Philippines Social Enterprise Network (5 mins) <p>Discussion by Representatives from 2017 VNR Countries (3 mins) Instruction: each will present max three picture to highlight the VNR process in their country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh – Sayeed Aminul Haque Coast • India – Ajay Jha CECODECON • Indonesia – Hamong Santoso INFID • Iran – Hanie Moghanie CENESTA • Thailand – Panjit Kaesawang Foundation for Women (FFW) • Malaysia – Lin Mui Kiang PROHAM and Mohd. Rizal bin Rozhan EMPOWER) • Maldives – Hamid Nasheed Mohammad Maldives Disability Association • Nepal – Dayasagar Shresta NGO Federation of Nepal • Japan – Masaki Inaba Japan Civil Society Network of SDGs <p>Interactive Activity (45 mins) 1) What strategies has your government adopted to implement the SDGs, 2) What is the mechanism in place for monitoring and accountability in your country, 3) What is the process for civil society and other stakeholder's engagement?</p> <p>VNR Desks: Nine VNR countries will have separate desks where participants can freely approach, listen to the discussions, and ask questions</p>
19:00 - end	ETC Dinner Side Event on Agriculture Mega Mergers (by invitation only)
March 27 Day 2	
8.30 – 9.00	Reflection from VNR session – Simon Hoiberg Olsen
9:00-11:00	<p>Session 4. Achieving Development Justice within Planetary Boundaries Towards UNEA 3: Achieving a World Without Pollution <i>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'</i></p>

	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Moderator: April Porteria Center for Environmental Concerns – providing the synthesis and linkages.</p> <p><i>Presentation from UN Environment Asia and Pacific</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Overview on Pollution in Asia and Pacific Isabelle Louis and Subrata Sinha, UN Environment Asia and Pacific (15 mins) <p>Discussant from CSO Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Dewi Amelia Eka Putri, Women Constituency Representative Marine pollution, fresh water pollution, oceans, microplastics and the linkage between terrestrial pollution and marine pollution (agriculture toxic waste, mining Lani Eugenia, Fisherfolks Constituency Representative Waste – Industrial pollution, occupational hazards, e-waste Julius Cainglet, trade union and workers representative <p>Flow of the Talkshow – list of questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) State of the issue of pollution in your sector/field and local action to address the issue 5 mins each for each speakers (20 mins) – Comments from the floor: 30 mins 2) Vision for Pollution Free world 3 mins for each speakers (12 mins) – comments from the floor (18 mins) 3) Recommendations and Ways Forward 3 mins each (12 mins) – comments from the floor (18 mins) <p>Synthesis and the cross-linkages – April Porteria Center for Environment Concern (15 mins)</p>		
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15 – 11:45	<p>Session 5. Peoples' Priorities on Sustainable Development</p> <p><i>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:</i></p> <p>Moderator: Aaron Ceradoy and Neth Dano</p> <p>Overview on the objective of workshops</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 issues of the region in the specific goals (e.g pollution, GMO, etc) and whether the SDGs can deliver them? 2) Identify the interlinkages with other goals? 3) What are the opportunities and challenges to deliver these? 4) 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.</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><i>EWG: Karin Fernando</i></p>	<p>Workshop 2: Land/Sustainable Agriculture/Food Sovereignty EWG: Wali</p>	<p>Workshop 3: Health EWG: Elenita Dano</p>

	Coordinators: <i>Migrants (Aaron)</i> <i>Older Persons</i>	Coordinators: <i>Farmers Constituency</i> <i>Indigenous Peoples Constituency</i>	Coordinators: <i>People Living with and affected by HIV</i> <i>SRHR Working group</i> <i>Persons with Disability</i>
14:15 – 15:15	Lunch Break		
15:15 - 15:45	Workshop 4: Gender Equality and Women’s Rights EWG: Wardarina Coordinators: <i>Women constituency</i> <i>SRHR working group</i>	Workshop 5: Industrialization, Infrastructure EWG: Feny Coordinators: <i>NGO Constituency</i> <i>S&T Constituency</i> <i>Accountability WG</i> <i>Trade union and workers</i> <i>Social and community enterprises</i>	Workshop 6: Ocean/Seas EWG: April Coordinators: <i>Pacific Subregions</i> <i>Fisherfolks Constituency</i>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00 - 17:30	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> Moderator: Kate Lappin APWLD Overview and the setting of global governance framework – Macroeconomic Indicators, MOI indicators (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Technology - Neth Dano ETC Group (10 mins)○ Trade - Ranja Sengupta Third World Network (10 mins)○ Tax and illicit financial flows - Neeti Biyani Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (10 mins)○ Official Development Assistance – Yodhim Dela Rosa RoA-AP (10 mins) <i>Interactive Session (30 mins)</i> 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. <i>Strategy discussion</i>		
17:30 – 18:15	Put together outputs - make a coherent picture (Simon and Karin will assist) Aaron Ceradoy and Neth Dano		
18:15– 18:30	Closing of day 2 and announcements Drafting team meeting		
19:00 – end	Side event: Education		
March 28 Day 3			
09:00 – 11:00	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> Moderator: Malu Marin Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters) Overview on the study of shrinking spaces Marjorie Pamintuan APRN (10 min) Responses by the UN: 1) What can regional organisations like the UN help address shrinking engagement spaces in		

	<p>some countries in the region?</p> <p>2) How does RCM or other UN coordination mechanism approach civil society engagement?</p> <p>Part 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division (7 min) • Nicholas Booth UNDP (7 mins) <p>Reality check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reasey Seng SILAKA, Cambodia (7 mins) & Responses from UN (2 mins each) <p>Part 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Stone, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (7 mins) • Isabelle Louis UN Environment Asia and the Pacific Office (7 mins) – UNEP stakeholder engagement policy <p>Reality check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yao Ling Ling, All China Environment Federation / Cai Yi Ping, DAWN (7 mins) & Responses from UN (2 mins each) <p>Part 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaori Abe* FAO (7 mins) • Mitchell Hsieh, Secretary of the Commission (7 mins) <p>Reality check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abia Akram APWWDU/STEP, Pakistan (7 mins) & Responses from UN (2 mins each) <p><i>Open Forum – 25 minutes</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</p> <p>Deliberation of the CSO statement for UN Environment – April, Wali, Neth.</p> <p>Deliberation and Discussion of CSO Statement for APFSD – Marj, Gomer, Aaron, Simon</p>
17:45 – 18:15	Session 11. Strategising for APFSD
18:15 – 18:30	Closing Remarks, Announcements



Summary

From 26-28 March 2017, The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCSEM) organised and hosted the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development (APCSF). The APCSF brought together 150 Asia-Pacific civil society organization (CSO) representatives to discuss regional sustainable development issues. The outcome of the forum fed into the intergovernmental discussions at the subsequent Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) from 29-31 March 2017, where 9 joint civil society statements and 11 constituencies' statement were delivered. The APCSF also informed broader CSO positions on sustainable development in the region, and will inform Asia-Pacific CSO's participation in the September 2017 Asia Pacific Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities, and the December 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3). Participants engaged in dialogue with ESCAP, UN Environment, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to discuss more opportunities for civil society engagement in sustainable development processes.

Key to discussions was an identification of structural barriers in Asia-Pacific that are hindering success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs only address problems at a surface level and do not deeply and holistically take into consideration the political, social and economic systemic roots that keep people in poverty and leave people behind. Problems being experienced nationally and regionally with Follow Up and Review (FUR) processes, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and SDG architecture were identified along with constructive proposals for change, CSO engagement, and focus on Development Justice in implementation and review processes. The theme of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development (APCSF) was "Prosperity for Whom? Asserting Development Justice in a Changing Asia and Pacific". APCSF challenged all stakeholders to ensure that prosperity in the region is truly shared and evenly redistributed in SDG implementation.

Background and Meeting Rationale

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

Civil society continues to call for "Development Justice" during current struggles to determine how the 2030 Agenda will be carried out at regional and national levels (See box "What is Development Justice?")

The theme of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development (APCSF) was **“Prosperity for Whom? Asserting Development Justice in a Changing Asia and Pacific”**. The theme and APCSF discussions challenged all stakeholders to ensure that prosperity in the region is redistributed – and inequality not exacerbated – in the SDG implementing years.

In the on-going global process to implement the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, regional commissions of the United Nations are mandated to feed regional perspectives into the global implementation process through regional preparatory meetings.¹ 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. The theme of APFSD 2017 was in line with the HLPF 2017 theme: “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia and Pacific” focusing on goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17. Further, APFSD 2017 crucially worked to adopt a Regional Roadmap on Implementing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific.

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

Participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in these processes is highly important and provides opportunities to CSOs to make substantive contribution to shape regional processes that will actively engage CSOs in assessing

What is Development Justice?

Development Justice reimagines “sustainable development” and takes it much further. The 2030 UN SDGs alone will not bring lasting, just, and sustainable development to peoples across the globe. The SDGs do not take into account or remedy deep systemic problems. Development Justice demands five foundational shifts:

Redistributive Justice aims to redistribute resources, wealth, power and opportunities to all human beings equitably. It compels us to dismantle the existing systems that channel resources and wealth from developing countries to wealthy countries, from people to corporations and elites. It recognises the people as sovereigns of local and global commons.

Economic Justice develops economies that enable dignified lives, accommodate needs and facilitate capabilities, employment and livelihoods available to all. Economic justice is not based on exploitation of people or natural resources or on environmental destruction. It is a model that makes economies work for people, rather than compels people to work for economies.

Social and Gender Justice eliminates all forms of discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion that pervade our communities. It recognises the need to eliminate patriarchal systems and fundamentalisms, challenge existing social structures, deliver gender justice, sexual and reproductive justice and guarantee the human rights of all peoples.

Environmental Justice recognises the historical responsibility of countries and elites within countries whose production, consumption and extraction patterns have led to human rights violations, global warming and environmental disasters and compels them to alleviate and compensate those with the least culpability but who suffer the most: women, peasants, indigenous peoples, migrants and marginalised groups of the global south.

Accountability to Peoples requires democratic and just governance that enables people to make informed decisions over their own lives, communities and futures. It necessitates empowering all people, but particularly the most marginalised, to be part of free, prior and informed decision-making in all stages of development processes at the local, national, regional and international levels and ensuring the rights of people to determine their development priorities.

¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/290.

progress on long-term sustainable development. **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 was necessary.** In this context, ESCAP in collaboration with AP-RCEM organized a three-day civil society consultation APCSF from 26 - 28 March 2017 in the lead-up to the APFSD. Some participants of the CSO forum joined the official APFSD 2017.

Purpose and objectives

Following the regional progress in raising the concept of Development Justice to global attention and the establishment of AP-RCEM, the 2017 **APCSF was a forum for civil society organisations to work together and consolidate their position and recommendations for a regional sustainable development agenda.** Asia-Pacific civil society organisations from different sectors and countries came together and explored common ground and actions, developed common messages and coordinated strategies for more effective participation in the regional intergovernmental processes on sustainable development. The APCSF had the following objectives:

- **Inform and build capacity** of civil society participants on sustainable development at global and regional levels, and on the opportunities and modalities for engaging these processes;
- **Provide a space for dialogue** on the structure and content of the APFSD and upcoming UNEA-3. Formulate joint civil society positions building on Asia-Pacific civil society messages on the 2030 Agenda, Regional Roadmap, and UNEA-3 theme; as well as strategize interventions for the APFSD.
- **Facilitate sharing and exchange** on critical issues faced by the various constituencies and discuss alignments and areas of partnership/cooperation;
- **Reflect on the work of AP-RCEM** in 2015-2017, specifically in relation to the implementation and monitoring of 2030 Agenda in the region.
- **Agree on joint actions** and follow up to adopted civil society positions.

Participants

APCSF participants from active Asia-Pacific CSOs are engaged in economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development at local, national and regional levels (See Appendix 2: Participant List). **AP-RCEM's structure goes beyond the 9 major groups, and includes 5 sub-regions and 17 constituencies.** The APCSF encouraged 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. **Over 150 participants attended** from different organisations with wide geographical, thematic, sectoral and gender representation. **Geographically,** constituency representatives came from: (1) the Pacific, (2) East/North East Asia, (3) North/Central Asia, (4) South/SouthWest Asia, (5) Southeast Asia.

Participants represented grassroots and local organizations, as well as national and regional organizations, from the following **constituencies**: (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 by Conflicts and Disasters, and (16) Fisherfolks and 17) Local Authorities.

As a **platform aimed to harness grassroots voices**, AP-RCEM encourages the participation of grassroots and peoples' movement organisations work on the issue of sustainable development in both the APCSF and APFSD.

Strategic outreach was organised by the Regional Coordinating Committee of the Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCC-RCEM). ESCAP also made an online call for participation through its CSO network.

About AP-RCEM

AP-RCEM is an open and inclusive 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. AP-RCEM has grown from 75 organisations in 2014 to 667 in 2017. AP-RCEM constituencies are as per the "Participants" section above. Constituencies have focal points, who are mandated to facilitate engagement of the constituency under them. AP-RCEM is not a network or coalition, but is a platform facilitating engagement of civil society in Asia-Pacific to engage in UN systems across the region. Any civil society groups can be a constituent, only needing to register on the AP-RCEM online form. AP-RCEM particularly highlights grassroots and people's movements, as there are challenges for their engagement. The Development Justice framework provides AP-RCEM's political unity.

For more information about AP-RCEM, its methods of engagement and how to take part, see www.asiapacificrcem.org. See also report section "2016-2017 AP-RCEM Progress".

Opening Remarks

Co-Chairs of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), Ms. Wardarina from APWLD and Marjorie Pamintuan from APRN, opened the 4th CSO forum. They noted that every year since the initial forum in 2013 there has been ever larger participation of CSOs wanting to jointly form positions for APFSD and other fora including HLPF. Out of 567 CSO applicants, 150 were in attendance, chosen based on criteria related to work on sustainable development and representation of constituencies and grassroots peoples. The aim of the meeting is to **amplify the voices of the grassroots people** with whom CSOs work in the UN and to government leaders, and to do so with a **united people's call for Development Justice**.



Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative, UN Environment Asia and Pacific, opened the APCSF affirming civil society's role, importance and influence in the APFSD and HLPF processes.

The APRCEM has invested time, energy and resources and commitment to regional processes including the APFSD and the Regional Roadmap. Your efforts are valued. This model of a CSO network is influencing networking at the global level and in other regions. Civil society participation has enhanced the dialogue at APFSD. Civil society participation will be critical in this year's APFSD. Those of you working at grassroots levels know the realities of poverty in the region. You know the systemic changes required to eradicate poverty... We rely on individual citizens to help build resilient economies, societies and effective institutions. There is no doubt that the cooperation of all stakeholders and government is crucial for achievement of the agenda.

- Dr. Shamshad Akhtar | Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

We accord the work with civil society very seriously. We value how you amplify messages, the work you do at the grassroots, and your telling us what's working and what's not.

- Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative, UN Environment Asia and Pacific

Dr. Akhtar detailed the aim of the 4th session of the APFSD to discuss the Regional Roadmap and share perspectives on the SDGs as well as the regional ESCAP, ADB and UNDP report.² The intergovernmental outcomes will inform the feedback provided at the HLPF. ESCAP is also convening the 4th High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific to support implementation of the SDGs.³ ESCAP's goals are to strengthen the relationship between diverse development actors and to help governments to serve their people better. The road to achieving the 2030 Agenda is instrumental to achieving the SDG implementation path and requires capacity building of all actors, most crucially capacity building for better social programmes. **To this end, ESCAP is investing more in consulting stakeholders and looks forward to CSO constructive dialogue.**

Dr. Tsering spoke primarily about the December 2017 UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) for a pollution-free planet and the interrelationship of the SDGs. Pollution poses enormous challenges to the SDGs, affecting the most poor people globally. He noted that the new Executive Director of UN Environment believes in dialogue, and in talking to citizens, business, governments and financial institutions in an understandable way. He cited biomass burning and the transboundary haze affecting family members suffering; indoor pollution primarily affecting women; marine litter affecting biodiversity and livelihoods; land pollution leading to loss of fertility, contamination, food insecurity; water pollution leading to heavy metals, chemicals and waste deposited in commons. Transformative, joint work at scale is needed to make an impact on these problems. **UN Environment is committed to creating fora and platforms for civil society engagement of governments, as well as of the private sector. It looks to CSOs to work together in monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.**



Systemic Barriers to Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific

Getting in the way of SDG success however, systemic barriers to sustainable development are discriminating against individuals or communities - **creating inequality and marginalization**. These practices or policies are institutionalized and multi-faceted, and they deny development benefits and rights to minority groups, women, elders, poor and others. Through a **constituent survey of 144 civil society groups in 25 Asia-Pacific countries whose work covers all SDGs**, AP-RCEM identified **5 systemic barriers to sustainable development (See detailed survey results in Appendix 3)**:

² ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, 2017, *Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia-Pacific*, Bangkok: ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/resources/eradicating-poverty-and-promoting-prosperity-changing-asia-pacific>.

³ 28-29 April 2017, Bangkok, Thailand.

- **Land** – Land grabbing, loss of productive land, displacement.
- **Trade and Investments**– Preferential trade treatments at a cost to citizens, groups.
- **Corporate Influence** – Corporate power over State processes, with evasion of responsibilities.
- **Patriarchy and Fundamentalism** - Ideologies that limit opportunities, participation and autonomy, privilege over others.
- **Militarism and Conflict** – Militarization increases risks, safety, loss of assets, coercion.

The survey ranked the most important barriers, but there was no clear winner, and issues were identified as interlinked. **Other barriers CSOs identified are globalisation, governance, unemployment, lack of access and control of information, lack of participation/consultation, popular agenda vs. the SDG agenda, lack of migrant protection, neoliberal economic barriers, unsustainable consumption and production, access to appropriate technology, political repression and dictatorships, unsustainable consumption and production, feudalism, caste, corruption, unjust and regressive international and domestic tax systems, tied ODA, political power.** A dot-mocracy exercise was conducted at the meeting to confirm and/or contest the survey findings with the wider group of CSOs gathered at the meeting.

Communities are not forgetfully 'left behind'. Instead, some are catapulted ahead through global economic and political systems that depend on the exclusion and exploitation of others
APRCM submission to HLPF



CSO representatives spoke to how they and their constituents feel the effects of these barriers on the ground. Helen Hakena from the Leitana Nehan Women Development Agency (LNWDA), Papua New Guinea (PNG), and the APRCEM People Affected by Conflict and Disasters Constituency began. She detailed **her community's fight to counter a mine and its negative environmental and health effects since the mine's opening in 1972:**

*My story begins in 1972. A mine was opened by BCL while I was still in school. Despite women's attempts the mine went ahead. A huge crater was carved out of the mountain. The effluent streamed into the river, and the river changed its course. It became barren and still is today. Whole forests died. Environmental security of the people became at risk, and there was long term ravaging of nature. It is still evident 25 years after the mine's closure. We are a matrilineal culture; women are not able to sustain their families or find clean water. In 1990 rebels formed, causing so much suffering. At that time I was a school teacher and 7 months' pregnant. The PNG government enforced a blockade to the island, because we were suspected of aiding the PNG rebels. I gave birth prematurely in an abandoned bank. Two others did too. Because of malaria they didn't survive. I formed LNWDA then to defend and speak for women's human rights. Chaos reigned. The mine company leaders were far in Australia and couldn't be reached. We were not able to access health services, and we lost 20,000 lives during that time. We are still vulnerable because all services have not come back. We are dealing with illiteracy; there is Gender Based Violence; there are mental health issues and drug and alcohol abuse. It is hard for us to maintain peace. **There is talk of the mine reopening again now, and the effect of the 10-year conflict has not been dealt with. We demand Development Justice at this time of talk of the mine reopening.** - Helen Hakena, LNWDA*

Sringatin from the Asia Migrants Coordinating Body, Indonesia Migrant Workers Union, Hong Kong, and the AP-RCEM Migrants Constituency shared her story of **migrant domestic work in Hong Kong for 15 years and the reasons that forced her to leave home**. Her family are farmers on land the government gave them, but have found themselves in **debt bondage after a decline in the sale price of agricultural products and because of the entry of imports**. Sringatin became a migrant worker to survive, but this too fails to provide their family a sustainable livelihood as the conditions are untenable and breaking a contract with a bad employer puts migrants and their families further into debt bondage due to stiff penalties. **The land given to her family by the government is Indigenous People's (IP) forest land. Their displacement and the destruction of their forests is ostensibly for agricultural development, including mainly for large corporate plantations, which work with the government to secure cheap farm labour and the land.**

The government uses us, gives us to the corporate profit makers, squeezing our blood for profit. Migration is not the solution to poverty. We believe no one wants to leave their home and family. Through our organization in HK we speak up and believe we can strengthen our solidarity. Migrant workers have become invisible. The governments do not value our work. The solution to poverty is to create a job in our home, stop the land grabbing, and support the farmers.

- Sringatin, Indonesia Migrant Workers Union, Hong Kong

Michael Beltrand from KADAMAY, and the AP-RCEM Urban Poor Constituency, **joined the meeting by video from the Philippines where he and a large social movement were occupying several thousands of empty urban housing units that the government built but has left empty for 5 years**. He noted that urban poor have been campaigning against the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito in 2016.⁴ **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) remain a prevailing source of poverty for the urban poor, regularly destroying livelihoods and disregarding social services and basic rights. The Quito agenda did not recognize large demolitions of slum communities globally, being carried out in corporate interests.**

⁴ UN, 2016, New Urban Agenda, United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Available at: <https://unhabitat.org/new-urban-agenda-adopted-at-habitat-iii/>.

Systemic barriers affecting us include corporate capture. The government facilitates this. The National Housing Authority (NHA) routes building to private companies which profit. The NHA and government are a hub for corporate takeovers. The NHA is charging high rates to the poor to live in the newly built housing. The settlements do not have proper infrastructure, and urban poor live next to these sites. Last year on 8 March we decided to occupy 6-8,000 sites. We took matters into our own hands after being exploited for so long. The NHA is going to carry out evictions forcibly and violently in the coming weeks. We have been given eviction notices. Please extend your support through messages, actions, statements.

- Michael Beltrand from KADAMAY

Sarah Zaman from Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre (SG), Pakistan, and the AP-RCEM Women's Constituency spoke about child sexual abuse in Pakistan. At age 23 she started working with War Against Rape and in 7 years talked with 2-300 survivors. The response of family, society and the state and its institutions was frustrating. Members of the Pakistan Senate say honor killing is ok because it's tradition. Boys are not able to speak because male rape is highly taboo. In rural provinces, women cannot go to the doctor for reproductive health issues, because they are then seen to have a physical problem and will not be able to marry. **Patriarchy, religion, culture, social norms hinder women's access to services and deeply damage their dignity. Even if they could access them, there is not much of a health or service system to access: Pakistan gives only 0.7% of GDP to health.**

Laws don't fix attitudes in society. Further, when we talk about SDG indicators, goals, targets, it doesn't make sense. At the grassroots level, commitments that states make overtly are not going to solve the problems... Religious extremism and fundamentalisms are rising. This post-truth world is affecting women disproportionately. We need to dismantle patriarchy, and we need to understand how it feeds into economic and political systems. Shelter homes won't stop Domestic Violence. We have to look beyond some of the SDG indicators being discussed, and we need qualitative indicators to look at means of implementation.

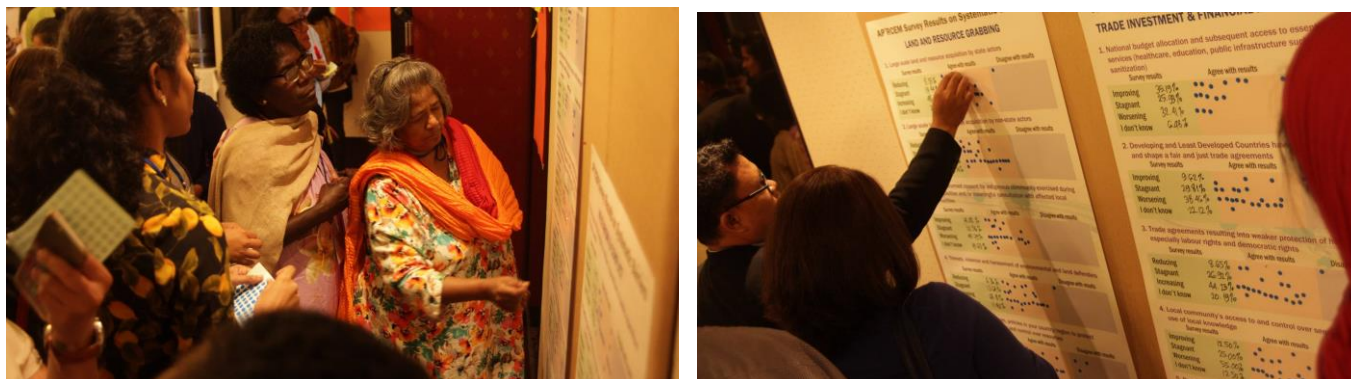
- Sarah Zaman, Shirkat Gah, Pakistan

Azra Talat Sayeed from Roots for Equity, Pakistan, and the AP-RCEM Farmers Constituency Corporate talked about **corporate land grabbing resulting in housing, health, and hunger crises. People are becoming more and more micronutrient hungry because of the use of fertilizers.** The corporate and SDG answer is to spend trillions of dollars to give micronutrients to our food. She spoke of shrinking civil society space to address this, while the state gives attention instead to fundamentalist men in Pakistan, and while the US and UK corporate sectors are colluding to bolster our military, who bomb our people. The affected people are displaced to IDP camps, and UN and large corporates create alliances to fortify food and give food to IDPs. **Money is made on weapons, and then on feeding the bombed people.**

The tune to which the state all dance to these days is trade and investment is nothing but capitalism and corporate. 7 billion on the planet however don't dance to that tune.

- Azra Talat Sayeed from Roots for Equity, Pakistan

The systemic barriers in these stories are interlinked, compounding and vary by country and locality. Without being willing to tackle powerholders who entrench paths to self-enriching prosperity at the expense of the majority of peoples, the SDGs will make little real difference to those who need change most urgently.



Global and Regional Processes for Follow Up and Review (FUR) and the Realities of SDG Engagement

Civil society is the backbone of societies and has played an important role in deliberations of the 2030 Agenda on our platform and across all UN agencies. We value your role in the implementation and the Follow Up and Review of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda represents a holistic contract between governments and their people.

- Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Agenda 2030 calls for a **“robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework.”** UN General Assembly resolution 70/299 on **“Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”** describes the way FUR is supposed to be carried out, focusing on a few goals every year, despite the intended integrated nature of the SDGs. The FUR architecture varies nationally with a ministry in some countries taking the lead on integrating the SDGs into existing plans. In other countries SDG headquarters are created or integrated into existing institutions. The CSO forum contributes to FUR through critique from a framework of Development Justice. See figure 1 for FUR Architecture details.⁵

Realities of engagement with FUR and the SDGs on the ground paint a messy picture however as CSO participants outlined at the meeting. FUR remains largely an intergovernmental process at all levels with very limited participation, effective engagement, or incorporation of the demands of CSOs and mass movements. Civil society is experiencing the FUR process as **largely lip service through limited and tokenistic “multi-stakeholders consultations”.** Countries report having engaged civil society in their VNRs through these **multi-stakeholder consultations however.** There is a lack of institutional mechanisms for thorough and effective participation of Major Groups due to shrinking democratic space, political repression, militarism in the region.

⁵ Olsen, S H, Zusman, E, Elder, M, King, P, Miyazawa, I, and Yoshida, T, 2017, **“Follow-up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals: Building on, and Breaking with, the Past”**, IGES Issue Brief, April 2017, IGES, Available at: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/sdgs/>.

There is also a lack of commitment in addressing root causes of poverty and discrimination, in addressing structural barriers, and in achieving Development Justice as demanded by peoples' movements. Nor is there commitment to data disaggregation beyond sex and age. **National Action plans and strategies are not transformational, and usual development approaches remain unchanged.** Means of Implementation are still tied to traditional Overseas Development Aid (ODA) reliance; unjust trade and investment agreements, private sector roles through PPPs. **Missing is full acknowledgement of and support to the contributions and roles of sectors including farmers, workers, women, indigenous peoples etc.**

ACTION POINTS: Participants were supportive of civil society taking the following actions:

- Step up awareness-raising on the 2030 Agenda and its implications at all levels;
- Strengthen capacities to engage at all levels, including in monitoring and reporting (data gathering) to claim rights and development justice. Participants felt it crucial that civil society needs to generate evidence-based advocacy on the SDGs, ie citizen-generated data for monitoring and reporting at all levels.
- Add SDG dimension in ongoing work;
- Start mass mobilizations demanding Development Justice, respect for human rights, and accountability from states, corporations, International Financial Institutions (IFIs);
- Promote the contributions and roles of different sectors in sustainable development;
- Engage in partnerships supporting the key demands and aspirations of marginalized sectors ie. AP-RCM; Land Rights Now Campaign, NO fossil Fuels, etc.

The workshop went on to **link sub-regional processes to the APFSD and HLPF**. At the **South Asia** level, SAARC suffers from poor bilateral relations, is largely ineffective, and limits CSO space through an onerous accreditation system. Recognizing that South Asia is one of the world's poorest regions, the SDGs will not be achieved without South Asia, and regional cooperation is essential. In **Southeast Asia**, ASEAN has declared a "Decade of Persons with Disabilities". Goals draw particular attention to eradication of poverty and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Because the global mechanisms lack reach to the grassroots, the ASEAN People's Forum and ASEAN Disability Forum aim to bridge the regional perspective with the global level. In **Central Asia** SDG processes have been slow. All governments are reported on SDGs to the Central Asia Regional meeting in Kazakhstan, presenting a beautiful picture of wide national consultations, while CSOs report the opposite and are finding it very difficult to participate.

ACTION POINT: A UN representative at the meeting highlighted that some states do not know how to engage civil society and have a genuine interest to. Civil society could usefully get together and communicate its expectations with regards to process of engagement, using the regional level discussions to talk about process. It was noted that **civil society can make arguments around what kind of stakeholder engagement process would be beneficial to governments and how civil society can support that.** Advice was to help the government reach down to civil society directly.

National Processes for FUR: Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

The 2017 HLPF will have 8 days of review, with 44 countries sharing their VNRs in only 3 of those days. There will be **little time for substantive or thorough review**. In 2016, 20 countries volunteered for review. Participants from countries participating in 2016 and 2017 VNRs presented on how their governments have done

or are doing the reports; progress on achievements of SDGs; national level architecture for implementation and accountability; and CSO initiatives to monitor and report on the SDGs.

When the government forgets some groups in society, the SDGs can be used as a leverage tool.

- Simon Olsen, IGES

2016 VNR Experience, Lessons Learned, and Recommendations



Korea

The Korean Civil Society Network on SDGs reported that Korean government and CSOs were late to engage with the SDGs. In 2016 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took charge of SDG reporting and contacted the Network in early 2016, proposing informal dialogue with development CSOs for the 2016 HLPF. There was only one dialogue, and domestic NGO groups wrote a paper responding to the Korean government's paper on SDG progress. The Network made a statement in the HLPF government session and followed this with a government-CSO dialogue post-HLPF. **The government was concerned about the CSO reactions and intervention.** This year four ministries are taking charge of SDGs, with no controlling ministry. Korean CSOs have asked the government to create a controlling body.

Philippines



In the Philippines, the Philippines Social Enterprise Network did an **assessment of the Philippine VNR against the UNSG common reporting guidelines**, looking at what the government addressed and what they did not. The Philippines government plans to **integrate the SDGs into the national Long Term Vision**, as well as the **Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022** and its accompanying Public Investment Program, yearly Budget Priorities Framework and various Subnational and Sectoral Development Plans. The government also plans to formulate a **SDGs Implementation Roadmap** to include a financial plan, data collection and methodology work plan, and a communications and advocacy plan. The creation of a dedicated Special Committee on the SDGs has been proposed, but not carried through. The Government conducted an assessment of SDG alignment with the existing national long-term vision. This found that most environment and equality goals are missing from the vision. Missing from the report itself however was discussion of integration and policy coherence, and the concept of leaving no one behind. The government's Multi-Sectoral Committee on International Human Development Commitments held a consultative meeting among various stakeholders to discuss and provide further inputs to the report prior to its finalization. **For the VNR in 2016 a 2-page summary of the government report was uploaded to the UN website, but there was limited time for us to respond to their full report.** Social Watch Philippines wrote a **112-page shadow report** "For Justice and Sustainability" available online.⁶

⁶ Social Watch Philippines, 2016, "For Justice and Sustainability: The Other PH 2030 Agenda", Social Watch Philippines and UNDP, Available at: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17569>.

CSO Proposal: Based on experience with VNRs in 2016, **Philippines CSOs recommend that Asia Pacific governments do the following in relation to VNR at HLPF:**

1. Commit to submitting a report every 6 years (at least 3x in 15 year lifespan) – sharing best practice but also allowing HLPF to assess the ongoing implementation process.
2. Engage a broad number of stakeholders at an early stage.
3. Use the UNSG guidelines as template of the report.
4. Focus on quality of SDG implementation, not quantity.
5. Include a summary on how to include more people/be more consultative.
6. Identify obstacles and areas where support is needed.
7. Don't avoid politically-volatile topics.
8. Spell out next steps.

2017 Upcoming VNRs at HLPF

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has aligned all the SDG targets with its planning process, however in terms of MOI Bangladesh is “business as usual”. Financial allocation was the same as the last 5-year plan, and more than 65% of the monitoring data system does not have indicators. There is a high level committee coordinated by the Prime Minister's office overseeing local implementation, and ministries are assigned to implement specific goals. Bangladesh's 7th 5-year plan includes the SDGs, with budget allocation, but new programmes are still under design. **If implementing ministries need additional resources, they have to come up with a resource mobilization plan.**

Ministries and agencies are preparing reports once a year. CSOs have proposed new indicators. CSOs are engaging proactively with the government, but feel there is a policy gap, incoherence, as well as a lack of transparency in CSO engagement, ie NGOs are hand-picked for engagement. CSO participation is bleak, particularly compared to the Philippines and Nepal, where the government is constitutionally mandated to engage with CSOs, though some CSOs have a good relationship with the government officials.



India

India is efficient. VNR is in July, and we have yet to start. We hope there will be consultations.
-Ajay Jha, CECODECON

India has identified institutions (NITI AAYOG and MOSPI) for SDG planning, implementation and review. Awareness among MPs has increased, thanks in part to CSO efforts. India is discussing a 15-year SD vision and a new energy policy. State governments have been asked to come up with their own action plan. NITI AAYOG has undertaken a mapping of the SDGs, identifying a nodal ministry for each goal. It has written a vision document “Vision 2032” aiming for inclusive development and poverty eradication. The government has drafted national indicators and shared them for comment. CSOs are disappointed, as most are based on flagship schemes of the government.

On Goal 2.5 – where there should be biodiversity – there is no mention of seeds. On Goals 10 and 16, there is nothing meaningful. CSO is organising a national consultation on the indicators. India lacks high quality, but also high integrity, data. **India is only going to map 29-30 targets so there will be a massive data gap.** CSOs know they need a strategic collective voice for engagement. There have been quasi government efforts to engage with citizens and CSOs but limited clarity on criteria for selection. **Only 5 CSOs have participated in the workshops. Information on VNR preparations is not available on public platforms, violating the principles of VNR i.e. transparency, inclusiveness, robustness and participation. A draft VNR is being developed but not in public.**

ACTION POINT: Since the government is interacting with a limited number of NGOs, civil society need to talk more and share information rather than work in silos.



Indonesia



Civil society asked the government to participate at HLPF 2017. It is doing so. In Jan 2017 a first meeting was organised to prepare the report, with civil society agreeing to establish a core team with government and the private sector. A working group is writing the VNR using UN guidelines, with the core team reviewing the draft. There is an aim for it to be politically correct (to be a guide for the President/Vice President at HLPF 2019 and in line with President priorities); technically correct (based on existing conditions; governance of SDGs and technical situation); and socially correct (involving all stakeholders). CSO engagement is nationally coordinated by INFID and includes academics and the private sector. It is not institutionalized yet. Government and INFID-led CSOs have

drafted the president's decree on SDGs, expected to be signed before HLPF 2017. The government is disseminating the SDGs.

Iran



Iran established a National Committee on Sustainable Development (NCSD) to oversee SDG implementation. **A network of 800 NGOs agreed to CENESTA and HORMOD (2 NGOs) participating in the National SD Committee to prepare the VNR.** A meeting in Tehran is determining an exact date for a workshop with IPs and farmers about their views on SDGs. The meeting is also discussing budget, women's issues, and the national development plan according to SDG priorities that is going to parliament. CSOs are participating in the National Biodiversity Strategy, where the SDGs are the top document used for preparing this national plan. CSOs are also working to inform farmers and local groups about how customary governance systems are related to the SDGs, with a look to the VNR. Workshops have looked at governance systems and transboundary conservation between Iran and neighboring countries.

Japan

Civil society, academia and the private sector are organised by the government to influence the SDG Promotion Roundtable. Civil society had 3 representatives at the roundtable. The government says it will hold SDG town meetings in rural areas. The SDGs will bring about no new programmes – in a 'Business as Usual' scenario. Civil society has said that areas of urgency are: poverty/inequality, gender, disaster/climate change, and rural revitalization. **CSOs have further critiqued Japan's SDG mechanism as recognizing SDGs as 'Abenomix'.**

ACTION POINT: CSOs call for the SDGs to be for sustainability not Japan's economic growth, and will make a shadow report against the upcoming national VNR.



Malaysia



Malaysia's CSO alliance for SDGs was invited to 2 national-level meetings. In February 2016, the EPU organised a national alliance and CSOs gave a statement with proposals and recommendations. CSOs contributed also to a roadmap. In December 2016, the government set up an SDG council to set the national agenda and milestones and prepare the VNR. The council has a SDG steering committee. Under the steering committee are 5 working groups for inclusivity, well being, human capital, environment, economic growth. CSOs hope there will be more plans to incorporate SDG goals in the 12th and 13th Malaysian plans. **CSOs have been incorporated into the formal government infrastructure. Challenges remain including: DOSM Data Collection (disaggregated data, tier of statistics); Lack of accountability; Overlooking national indicators; a "Diplomatically-correct" approach – Government's UN language (deliberate gate-keeping of information); No clarity about activities and the quality of the partnership after July; and Mainstreaming of SDGs among NGOs.**

Maldives

In Maldives CSOs are not officially included in the VNR processes. The Ministry of Environment is collaborating with UN bodies to consult with CSOs. Maldives has not published a situational report. The concept No One Left Behind will be a challenge for the country as Maldives has 200 inhabited islands making transport and service provision difficult, especially for persons with disabilities. NGOs find it difficult to reach remote islands since the cost of implementing programmes for these communities is huge.



Nepal



The Nepal government has published a preliminary SDG report identifying indicators and highlighting priority areas. **It has set 290 national indicators, but they are not consistent with the global indicators.** The government has organised a programme “Envisioning Nepal 2030”, and SDGs are incorporated in the national 14th plan from 2016-2019. CSOs find questions are unanswered about budget allocation and PPP involvement. The government is investing 29%, and the private sector 54%, with the rest from cooperatives. The government has started a discussion with sectoral ministries on M&E systems. The National Planning Commission is the focal agency, and there is a proposed Central Steering Committee, with a SDG Implementation and Coordination Committee underneath. **Civil society is critical that there is no institutional place for CSOs and has formed a CSO SDG Forum.** The Forum was involved in the National SDG Report 2015 and discussed PPP with the private sector, yet engagement of CSOs is not encouraging. The VNR process is slow without much progress. The government has envisioned 7.9% economic growth by 2018 so they have involved the private sector, but civil society critiques that “when the powerful enhance the powerful there will be a big gap between them and the powerless”.

ACTION POINT: Civil society will organize a **shadow report** to counter the government’s findings and a very inclusive CSO consultation. **When the government forgets some groups in society, the SDGs can be used as a leverage tool.**

Thailand

The National Committee on Sustainable Development chaired by the Prime Minister to oversee the implementation and three sub-committees was established in 2015 to be responsible for implementation, monitoring and database development. **Thailand’s 12th five-year National Economic and Social Development Plan, 2017-2021, was mapped out in line with the long-term national strategy specifically referring to the SDGs.** Thirty SDG targets

were prioritized with identification of a roadmap and Ministerial focal points. A 6-month progress report is expected from government agencies. On 23 March, MOFA established a platform with CSOs but **only invited mainstream CSOs to participate. CSOs working for vulnerable groups were not included**, excepting one IP network. CSOs in the process were not selected through any transparent process. There needs to be more community, CSO, and grassroots engagement. Most government agencies have provided online information on SDGs relevant to their respective agencies such as priority targets, indicators, roadmaps, but there is no clear information on how expertise of CSOs would be utilized in implementation or on budget allocation for collaboration between GOs and CSOs. Administrative data and information from government agencies is not being gathered or appropriately disaggregated.

ACTION POINT: Foundation for Women and other CSOs have proposed a specific forum on SDG Goal 5 to provide an opportunity for more women's CSOs to be more involved in the consultative process.

Towards UNEA-3: Achieving a World without Pollution

*We still need the civil society space UN Environment provides because our governments are not willing to hold polluters to account. Recently a co-generation biofuel plant in the Philippines had an accident in their facilities, but there is no accountability. **UN Environment is indeed providing space, but we need to challenge UN Environment.** Pollution is the number one problem. We agree, but we want to contextualize that with social and economic dimensions. **We propose the framework of Environmental Justice and corporate accountability.** Polluting practices affect the social and economic fabric of communities hosting these corporations.*

- Maria Finesa Cosico, AGHAM, and the AP-RCEM Science and Technology Constituency

UNEA-3's theme – Achieving a pollution free planet – emerged from member states themselves. The solution requires all of us not just one sector. From now until December there will be wide stakeholder consultation. It is important for us to hear what is happening from the ground as we put forward priorities to the member states.

- Isabelle Louis, Director (a.i.), UN Environment Asia and Pacific

Environment is integrated with the two other pillars of sustainable development and in SDG implementation. **UNEA is one global process that feeds into the HLPF.** UNEA-3 in December 2017 is themed: a Pollution-Free Planet. **CSOs were invited to contribute to UNEA-3 by the end of April** by presenting case studies, records. UN Environment will **finalise a thematic report "Pollution" by the end of May.** It will address air pollution, marine pollution, land/soil pollution, fresh water pollution, chemical pollution, and waste.⁷

The UNEA-3 draft agenda (see Appendix 4) includes a high level segment with Ministers of Environment, followed by dialogues bringing together business and CSOs with government. Multi-stakeholder dialogues provide additional space for civil society to engage. The 2016 **UNEA-2 had no agreement on stakeholder engagement. This will be revisited in 2019.**

UN Environment notes that opportunities for CSO participation – including written input to draft documents,

⁷ The structure of the thematic report will be as follows: Section 1- Evidence exists of a polluted planet that impacts human health, ecosystems, and economies. Section 2- What would it mean to people to have a pollution free (or clean) planet? Section 3- A Framework of Guidance Principles and Transformative Actions. Section 4- Strategic leadership and commitments.

expert input, participation in Committee of Permanent Representatives, and outreach to society – **are rarely used fully**. UN Environment receives 2-3 inputs per year.

Currently tasked to engage more with the business community, UN Environment notes **there is a risk that the spaces underutilized by civil society could be taken over by the private sector**.



ACTION POINT: It is important to make sure that private sector engagement with UN Environment does not turn into **greenwashing**. That is the watch dog role of civil society.

ACTION POINTS: UN Environment suggests the following ways for CSOs to engage:

- Participation in Preparatory Process, including Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Regional Meetings/Regional Statements
- Lobbying of Governments
- Written input, comments, proposal
- Pledges/Commitments⁸
- Major Groups Facilitating Committee
- Regional Representatives
- Perspectives Publication Series
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum
- Participation in Assembly Sessions
- Use UN Environment Stakeholder resources.⁹

⁸ UN Environment is inviting **pledges and commitments for UNEA-3** from governments, CSOs, businesses, and private citizens.

⁹ UN Environment Stakeholder Engagement resources that CSOs can use include:

- **UN Environment** Website: <http://web.unep.org/>

Pollution Trends under UNEA-3 themes:

Air pollution, as the world's biggest environmental health risk, costs the lives of 7 million people every year. 70 per cent of these deaths occur in Asia-Pacific.

The majority (80 per cent) of **marine litter** is linked to land-based sources. The top five land-based sources of ocean's plastic waste in Asia are (in order) China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

Nearly 20 million hectares are affected by heavy metal contamination (**land/soil pollution**) in China alone and the areas of contaminated soil could rise due to increasing economic activities in the Asia and the Pacific.

In an example of **fresh water pollution** where metals have accumulated in riverbeds, river water analysis has shown high levels of aluminium and zinc in West Java, lead in Erdenet (Mongolia), and manganese, iron, and chromium in the rivers of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Japan.

The Asia Pacific region produces more chemicals and waste than any other region in the world. Over the period of 2012-2020, the regional chemical production is expected to grow by 46 per cent. **Chemical pollution** will also grow.

Lower-income cities in Asia will double their **solid waste** generation within 15-20 years.

Source: UNDP, Presentation "UNEA 3 Theme: Towards a Pollution-Free Planet Asia Pacific Overview on Pollution", 27 March 2017

ACTION POINTS: In the process leading to UNEA-3 in December, there will be opportunities for major groups to participate. All the meetings are open for CSO participation. **The draft schedule of preparatory events is as follows:**

- Ministerial Fora: Asia Pacific (September); Africa (May?); West Asia (October)
- Committee of Permanent Representatives (ongoing), Open Ended Meeting of the CPR (November 29 – December 1)
- Other relevant meetings (HLPF, Oceans Conference, CEO Meetings)
- MGS Meetings (multi-stakeholder)
 - Asia Pacific CSO Forum (March)
 - Regional Consultations (Europe, May; Africa, May; North America, August; West Asia, August, Latin America and the Caribbean, tbc; Asia Pacific, September)
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum December 2-3)

CSOs noted that despite having these spaces, they face a challenge in raising “people’s issues”. There is **little recognition of the inextricable linkage of the economic, social and environmental dimensions** of sustainable development. In the planning processes of investment projects, for example, many Asia-Pacific countries require environmental impact assessments, yet these do not account for social and economic impacts when the investor calculates return rates. Projects are deemed viable and proceed even with high negative impacts. Regional militaries – in addition to corporations – need to undertake this type of holistic impact assessments.

CSO PROPOSAL: APCSF propose the framework of Environmental Justice.¹⁰ The social and economic fabric of communities is affected by environmental pollution. CSOs encourage UN Environment to strengthen capacity building and promote Environmental Justice as part of Development Justice and addressing systemic barriers to achieve it, promote environmentally sound technologies; to adopt a science-based interface policy; and to undertake meaningful spaces for critical engagement.

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- About **UNEA-3**: <http://web.unep.org/about/cpr/proposed-themes-2017-un-environment-assembly>
 - UN Environment **Civil Society Website**: <http://web.unep.org/about/majorgroups/>
 - **Stakeholder Engagement Policy**: <https://goo.gl/quPtnW>
 - **Access to Information Policy**: <https://goo.gl/UeZq1n>
 - **Contact**: Alexander Juras, Chief, Civil Society Unit, UN Environment, Nairobi, at Alexander.Juras@UNEP.org

¹⁰ The concept of Environmental Justice recognises the historical responsibility of countries and elites within countries whose production, consumption and extraction patterns have led to human rights violations, global warming and environmental disasters and compels them to alleviate and compensate those with the least culpability but who suffer the most: women, peasants, indigenous peoples, migrants and marginalised groups of the global south.

CSO Perspectives on Pollution and Achieving Environmental Justice in the SDG Context



*We have seen that environmental degradation is a pervasive problem, but **it most affects local people whose lives depend on local ecosystems**. This is silent in the SDGs, as well as in accountability demands. **We reaffirm our stance that the struggle for a pollution-free world is a people's issue. The targets in the SDGs prioritize our issues, but if they only look at technical solutions, Development Justice will be missed.** We are looking at how to acknowledge that systemic barriers are contributing to pollution.*

- April Porteria, Center for Environmental Concerns

1) Pollution Affecting Grassroots Peoples: UNEA-3 Does Not Cover It All

The AP-RCM farmer constituency see pollution differently than the UNEA-3 categories of pollution. The farmer constituency suggested that key pollutants relate to corporate capture and militarization as in the figure below. Genetic pollutions interact forms of life and cannot be recalled and contained, causing serious economical harm. Agrofuel jatropha is toxic and degrades the land. Further agrofuels use a lot of water, as well as genetically-engineered seeds. Pollution related to militarization (see figure below) is not only evident in regions currently at war, but also military bases and military presence to safeguard corporate interests cause environmental damage with use heavy machinery.

CSO PROPOSAL: Farmers request UN Environment to rethink how they see pollution.

Figure 1: Types of pollution affecting farmers (Roots for Equity, Pakistan)

Farmers' Contextualizing Environmental Pollution		
KNOWN POLLUTANTS	Corporate Capture/Land Grab	Militarization
Air	Genetic Pollution	Ammunition
Water	Agrofuels	Land Mines
Litter	Pesticides	Bombs
Noise	Fertilizers	Fuel/Spills
	Haze	Toxics-polluted-water sources
	Blasting	Food Chain Contamination
	Industrial economic zones: cement/others	
	Food Chain Contamination	

The **women's constituency** spoke of severe air pollution in the region, and particularly haze from crop burning and forest clearing on corporate monopoly land. In Indonesia in 2015 the haze disaster left more than 500,000 people with respiratory track infections. **Stereotypical and patriarchal roles place burdens on women to ensure family health, as well as nutrition.** Severe air pollution results in miscarriages as well as destroyed biodiversity. When caretakers or breadwinners are unable to go outside in search of food or work, it is hard to feed families.

The **fisherfolk constituency** spoke of **water pollution that government and corporate stakeholders deny is taking place.** An Indonesian-Singaporean joint venture cement plant in Bayah on the Indonesian coast, for example, claims to be using an advanced zero waste technology, yet fisherfolk have seen a significant decrease of fish in their catchment areas. They have lost their fish and their family income. Consumers are no longer willing to buy the few contaminated fish that they do catch because they are causing allergies (an itchy mouth) to buyers who have turned to buying fish from other districts.

Trade unions and workers in the Asia-Pacific region have a particularly **tricky relationship with pollution and environmental issues. Green jobs, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), and fair implementation of regulation must go hand-in-hand with reduction of pollution.** If not, **workers lose out,** as in the following

Philippines examples:
In 2009 a major flood in the Philippines was partly caused by the improper use and disposal of **plastics**. The state banned plastics in response. 20-40,000 workers in the plastics industry lost their jobs.

As a reaction to new Philippines' environmental laws, a Philippines paper and pulp factory now produces 100% recycled paper. However **recycled paper** as raw material requires the use of more chemicals to separate toxic elements from usable pulp. While environmental issues were addressed with recycling, workers experienced more harmful chemical exposure and no upgraded OSH.

Transportation in the Philippines is not public. 15-year old busses, as well as Jeepneys operate and cause pollution. When the Philippines recently passed a clean air act, they clamped down on small Jeepney drivers but not on big bus corporations. Fair implementation of otherwise good laws is missing.

The **disability constituency** cited that pollution directly impacts people with disability, as **chemical pollution** from industrialization creates disability. **Military waste**, including unexploded ordinances, is also a large contributor to disability in the region.

Trade agreements are further and systemically handcuffing governments in the region: Governments **risk being sued by foreign investing companies for regulating environmental destruction (which companies see as reducing profit)**. In a scenario of already minimal national accountability, internationally-imposed impunity through trade agreements leaves multi-national polluters free to destroy environments that are far from their home territories.

2) Vision and Recommendations for a Pollution-Free World: Do These Ideas Match Yours?

Farmers envision **food sovereignty**. That entails: chemical-free food and water production systems; a self-sustainable environment; control and access of natural resources by small producers/local communities; agroecology; access to safe and nutritious food; just and lasting peace. For this to happen political will is needed. A first step to that is mass political education, where communities are politicized for their rights so they can pressure governments telling them that they do not accept landgrabbing or corporate hegemony. **Organising and mobilizing** needs to take place at national, provincial and local levels. Small-scale farmers are also organising agroecological model farms, saving and regenerating traditional seeds, and not using pesticides and chemical fertilizers. This is a model of food security that is not reliant on corporate agriculture and provides access to and equitable distribution of food. Yet policies and laws (ie., seed laws) are under influence of corporate capture at the expense of small producers.

Women envision **sustainable forest management by communities** with local seeds and agroecology, averting environmental destruction, haze, and reliance on energy from oil palm that results in landgrabbing and drought. Women envision a shift to clean energy, but not to solutions that cause other serious problems, such as oil palm. At national levels, a genuine **agrarian reform** is vital, as well as changing export oriented production systems into national oriented ones. Women need **more space in the UN**, to participate and be heard, and to be part of any policies that will affect their lives.

Fisherfolk envision a world where their source of life – the **marine ecosystem** – is preserved and small scale fishers have access to markets. **Government at all levels should take a lead towards solutions of the marine pollution** problems that affect small fisherfoks. Fisherfolks are mobilizing to protest building of ports that destroy fishing resources; they are also in dialogues with government. CSOs can strengthen collective actions to support science and community based evidence on marine pollution and the impact to rural livelihoods. The UN must **facilitate the voice of fisherfolks** and rural communities in UN processes. Fisherfolk need capacity to assess the technologies being used by proponents of potentially damaging projects.

Workers envision **decent green jobs** - employment that preserves and restores the quality of the environment, and is productive, non-hazardous, provides a living wage, security and social protection as well as social dialogue. They want jobs that reduce consumption of resources across supply chains. Workers also envision the **greening of**

existing jobs – changing energy to renewable sources, reducing electricity consumption in manufacturing, and making sure all manufacturing processes are clean and safe, etc. Greening must ensure that workers are not displaced. A “**Just Transition**” includes employment insurance, re-skilling, competency-based assessment and placement, state climate financing, and coverage in collective bargaining agreements. In this environment **two new rights for workers** must be utmost and recognized: 1) Right to refuse dangerous work and work that destroys the planet, 2) Right to state protection for whistleblowers. Through **social dialogue** workers, employers and government need to discuss Just Transition to new practices that are environmentally sound and socially just.

Pacific Islands activists working on Climate Justice noted that the SDG challenge is not about implementing goals, it is about their survival. **Islands are disappearing faster than goals are being implemented.** Action calls are urgently needed.

People's Priorities on Sustainable Development

Wider ESCAP Survey on Goals, Optimism and Systemic Challenges

In early 2017 ESCAP carried out a survey on stakeholder perspectives on the 2017 Cluster of Goals (SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 9 & SDG 14). The survey was issued to RCEM network and APFSD participants. It focused on policy coherence, systemic challenges, optimism in achievement of goals. In total there were 101 respondents, more than half from civil society, through also a good response from government officials. The bulk of interest was on Goals 1, 3, and 5. SDG 9 has most shared interest among groups. SDG 14 no interest from governments, which maybe reflects the ministries going to APFSD and the level of support we need to provide to this goal as well. The survey looked at optimism for achievement of goals which was fairly even throughout, with SDG1 a bit higher. In looking at systemic challenges, corruption was rated high. Full survey results, goal by goal are available at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwIXXUv4gWyiMjg2My05SlVRm8>.

Workshops for Peoples' Priorities for Sustainable Development

Parallel workshops provided venues for constituencies and thematic working groups to discuss regional people's priorities for the HLPF theme and focus goals, highlighting the integration of economic, social and environmental pillars (including pollution) in the implementation of and reporting on the themes. Parallel workshops looked at 1) priority issues in the region and whether SDGs can deliver them; 2) interlinkages with other goals; 3) opportunities and challenges; 4) recommendations.



The outcome of parallel workshop for goal 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17 were joint statements that can be found in these following links:

- Goal 1 - [CSO Consolidated statement](#)
- Goal 2 - [CSO Consolidated statement](#)
- Goal 3 - [CSO Consolidated statement](#)
- Goal 5 - [CSO Consolidated statement](#)
- Goal 9 - [CSO Consolidated statement](#)
- Goal 14 - [CSO Consolidated statement](#)

Means of Implementation (MOI): Moving from Global to Regional

The workshop looked at Means of Implementation (MOI), including science, technology and innovation, financing for development, and partnerships, and how they are impacting Agenda 2030 implementation in the region.



The SDGs include a huge amount of documentation on what development actors' obligations are, but little on how to implement them. MOI Goal 17 was one of the hardest fought negotiations in the SDGs, and it was an achievement to have a standalone goal on MOI and a standalone MOI target for each goal. Goal 17 is broken up into finance, technology, capacity building, trade, systemic issues (interpreted as: policy coherence, stakeholder partnerships, data). However, there was a lot of **erosion, for instance in establishing a global tax body; as well as getting commitments on conflicts**

from trade bodies. Developed countries have refused to see the UN as the convening space, preferring IFIs and outside spaces. The negotiated SDGs are still under attack – We are seeing **SDG Regression as targets are eroded through indicators:**

- Target 10.5 was supposed to address financial regulation, financial speculation, and flows. The proposed indicator in the first round of discussions in Bangkok was to have a tax on speculative finance. Now that is replaced with the IMF financial soundness indicator, which does not talk about global finance but national level banking.
- Target 17.13 on macroeconomic stability through policy coherence has a current indicator that says the World Bank will develop a macroeconomic dashboard with no mention of what that will include.
- Target 17.17 on partnerships encourages PPPs, and also public partnerships and civil society partnerships. The indicator is the amount of USD committed to PPP and civil society partnerships. But the workplan is for the World Bank's PPP facility to measure only the amount of PPPs, and not effectiveness.

Technology

Technology has been used as a bargaining chip by developed countries. Developing countries resent that technology only flows from North to South. The Least Developing Countries however are beginning to develop technology themselves. The **UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)** to deliver the SDGs was launched in September 2015 at the the Post-2015 Development Agenda Summit as part of the 2030 Agenda. The TFM builds on the recognition that developing countries need to prepare for new and emerging issues – like automation. Technology is often offered as a solution to a variety of problems, and developing countries often accept it blindly without looking at impacts.



The TFM works with 10 representatives from civil society, private sector, the scientific community, to prepare the meetings of the multi-stakeholder Science, Technology and Innovation **(STI) Forum**. The 10 representatives are appointed by the UNSG to serve a term of two years. The first STI Forum was held in June 2016. The next Forum in May will discuss mechanization, as introduced by Mexico. The STI Forum is annual and outcomes feed into the HLPF. Unfortunately, NGOs have to look for their own funds to attend. As it is new, the critical inputs of civil society are important at this point, and there is a global online platform for civil society to contribute if groups cannot travel to New York for the Forum. AP-RCCEM has a Science and Technology Working Group that tries to follow and contribute offline. **Industrialized countries have no interest, so there is opportunity for Asia-Pacific civil society to influence.**

Trade

Goal 17, and targets 17.10, 17.11, 17.12 discuss trade. Developing and LDC countries have been asking for fair rules on trade agreements. Target 17.10 asks for universal rules based on open, non-discriminatory trade, but LDCs want to be protective of national growing sectors. Target 17.11 increases LDC export share and gives duty free market access for LDCs, but rich farmers continue to get a lot of subsidies. **These are unambitious, with some targets even less strong than in the WTO.**



Foreign investors can take governments to secret arbitration courts - with conflicts of interest. Most developing country governments are losing these cases. Most are about natural resources, some about access to medicine. **With the current trade regime we will not meet SDGs, particularly:** 17.14 on policy space, 17.15 on policy coherence, 2.5 support to small farmers and women farmers (who cannot be subsidized under trade rules), 3.8 universal access to medicine (there are a lot of goals about access to services which cannot be met under trade rules); Goal 8 LDCs should have local value addition, Goal 17 domestic resource

mobilization (tax policies are being challenged by corporations that sue governments using trade and investment treaties if they raise taxes).

Tax and Illicit Financial Flows

No development can be financed without taxes. A progressive tax system depends on taxing rich more than the poor. It can help investment in infrastructure, improve governance, reduce corruption. However, globally there are very low levels of corporate and income tax. Countries compete to offer lower taxes until they give tax breaks to people in a position to pay. Economists say that there will only be Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) if there are low taxes, but FDIs depend on local markets and skill levels in countries. Further Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are given tax (and labour) exemptions. There are global tax losses in extractive industries. Illicit financial flows exploit tax loopholes to the point where 1 trillion USD is lost to every year. Asia accounts for nearly half of this - USD 482 billion – and China alone one-fourth. Tax is considered the traditional MOI for development and Target 17.1 talks about strengthening domestic resource mobilization. UNCTAD estimates it will take USD 3.3-4.5 trillion annually for developing countries to meet SDGs.



Figure 2: Lobbying for an international tax body

ACTION POINT: Pressure governments to support the establishment of a democratic, inclusive, well-resourced intergovernment tax body under the UN.

Official Development Assistance

ODA should not be construed as charitable contribution from the global north. 0.7 GNI of high income countries is a historical and geographical debt. Today ODA remains still limited. It is often tied, furthering structural barriers and impediments (as per the sections above and the figure in this section). **This makes MOI MIA.**

Figure 3: Road to Development Justice (APWLD video)



The global north continues to bleed the global south. The value of ODA has remained unchanged for 5 years. More resources have been flowing out of developing countries than in. ODA's role is being downplayed, and MOI focus is moving to FDI, remittances and domestic resources. Donor countries are introducing capacity building and technical assistance, undermining ownership. OECD calculation of ODA contributing to SDGs includes scholarships and peacekeeping activities (legitimizing military expenditure). ODA to PPPs is also increasing, favoring commercial interests of donors.

PPPs have severe ramifications on equity and access. They facilitate human rights abuses, including land grabbing and displacement. Private investment is concentrated (76%) in wealthy developing countries – such as China, Malaysia Thailand. Only 6.5% goes to LDCs.

Regional Roadmap

The Asia and Pacific Regional Roadmap was the main topic for APFSD. Civil society had pushed for adoption of a roadmap, and its adoption is key for how agencies will contribute to SDG implementation. The Roadmap addresses regional priorities and dimensions of the 2030 Agenda that most benefit from a regional approach in implementation. The Roadmap was a recommendation of Asia-Pacific CSOs during the APFSD 2015¹¹ which clearly articulated the vision for a people-centered regional roadmap. **AP-RCEM believes that a people-centered regional roadmap – developed with meaningful engagement of civil society – will offer concrete steps for effective regional cooperation and evaluation.** This will benefit developing and least developing countries, and countries and populations with special needs, as they set out to implement the 2030 Agenda. Agenda 2030 mentions regional implementation 30 times. There was an expert group meeting involving civil society that looked at how the Roadmap should be put together and its content, however Roadmap discussions broke down last year at APFSD. Countries felt the roadmap would be another handle for civil society to account for implementation.

This year there is a newly proposed Roadmap. Its **problems include that it is broad.** This gives activists some opportunities but it also leaves open gaping holes of missing plans and MOI. AP-RCEM expected a far more substantive document when it proposed the idea of a roadmap. The document is wide and empty, with little content.

¹¹ “In order to be relevant, a regional review mechanism must be guided by a substantive regional roadmap that includes regionally relevant issues both within and outside the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and also includes 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 a strong accountability, grievance and redress mechanism for individuals when their rights are violated.” – AP-RCEM Collective statement for APFSD 2015

Initial Roadmap Analysis and CSO PROPOSALS:

- The Roadmap mentions “**technology access**” a term which could mean anything. “Environmentally sound technology” similarly is defined nowhere in the UN and can be **nuclear fuel**. In the climate change section, the Roadmap talks about “cleaner fossil technology” which is consistent with the ASEAN energy cooperation plan that pushes for “**clean coal**”. **Civil society needs to look at the Roadmap together with how member states are pushing for programmes on renewable energy and climate.**
- On trade an early draft of the Roadmap had a space for discussion on trade but it was taken out in the current version, though an opening paragraph that mentions all the MOI including trade so AP-RCEM can use that as an entry point. Trade is only mentioned under the subheading of Connectivity where the Roadmap asks for liberalization of e-commerce (no duty when goods are ordered online from another country). Trade agreements include a lot of discussion of liberalization of e-commerce because developed countries want to sell online. Developing countries lose out on import duties however. There are also data privacy issues, as well as negative impacts to small retailers. **Civil society demands to have recommendations on trade.** Nine UN Special Rapporteurs have talked about human rights impacts of Trade Agreements. At a regional level **civil society demands to have SDG-compatible trade agreement impact assessments.**
- The **Leaving No One Behind** section is empty. It does not mention farmers, IPs.
- Laudably it calls for data disaggregation and statisticians, but it does not say how they will do the disaggregation. **Civil society push for data generated by major groups and other stakeholders.**
- On **management of natural resources** it is empty, and there are risks in the way it is currently framed as “developing regional capacity with respect to resource efficiency”. This is **not conservation or sustainability.**
- In 2016 the Roadmap referred to having a preparatory CSO forum, and that is gone from this year’s version. **There is no reference to interface with civil society.**



Engaging UN and Member States in Asia-Pacific: Progress and Setbacks

There has been both progress and setback on CSO engagement on SDGs at national and regional levels. This session asked UN officials what have they done to open up to CSO engagement (ESCAP divisions and the RCM); asked CSOs what they have done to reach out to the UN; and what can be done to move forward.

Shrinking Civil Society Space



In 2016 the Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness contributed to an assessment on Indicator 2 of the Effective Development Cooperation: “Civil society operates within an environment that maximizes its engagement in and contribution to development”. Large scope research findings included:

- There is a little improvement on the number of countries engaging CSOs on national development plans.
- CSOs say consultations can be tokenistic to fulfill conditions for aid-provider funding. They are not institutionalized, therefore lacking transparency. They are usually located in cities, and have no feedback mechanisms. There are not procedures for CSO engagement or selection processes.
- CSO service providers working with government find their space is expanding, but critical CSOs are marginalized.
- Freedom of Information often has arbitrary basis for access. Governments are selective, and use blanket security concerns to restrict information. In the Philippines trade and investment agreements are not included, and thus CSO engagement in this area is limited.
- Asia is the deadliest region for journalists. There have been arbitrary arrest and control over social media and internet. Some countries restrict CSO formation/registration or make registration processes cumbersome. Unregistered groups are excluded from consultation processes.

- Legal and regulatory environments block external funding. Human rights defenders, women human rights defenders, environmentalists, trade unions, and sexual minorities particularly face constraints.
- There is an expansion of corporate influence. At the UNGA the International Chamber of Commerce was granted observer status last year.

In this context of shrinking spaces, CSOs look to other venues for advocacy. In the workshop civil society asked what ESCAP and other regional institutions were doing to help address shrinking engagement spaces?



Responses from the UN

Mitchell Hsieh, Secretary of the Commission (ESCAP) noted that SDD and Environment Divisions of ESCAP make efforts on a day to day level to include CSOs. More formally ESCAP terms of reference guide invitations of stakeholders and ESCAP is bound by UN requirements in terms of other stakeholder engagement including requiring accreditation with ECOSOC. Additionally, ESCAP maintains its own accreditation.

Nicholas Booth from UNDP spoke on civic engagement and shrinking space. He spoke about UNDP's report on the subject. UNDP recently surveyed all resident coordinators:

- Their top strategy was to facilitate engagement in the SDGs, as well as to protect and stand up for human rights defenders.
- Challenges they identified include: Shrinking space, securitization, increasing use of terrorism for restrictions, funding and capacity issues of CSOs, UN lacking a clear strategy and resources to support civic space.
- They noted the UN tends to work with elite, capital-based NGO coalitions, and less at grassroots, finding it difficult to work with un-registered organizations.
- 5 planned engagements are: SDGs, civil society space/Human rights, New private sector partnerships, Protection of (W)HRDs, and Inclusion of marginalized groups.

ACTION POINTS: Think about how you can engage the UN in Monitoring and implementing SDGs. Approach your UN country teams. The UN have put aside 1 million dollars to support SDGs, not just CS engagement, but civil society can ask for it to be spent on that. Ask national governments to apply for the money.

Isabelle Louis and Alexander Juras, UN Environment

UN Environment is beginning to engage a lot at grassroots, through for instance, sustainable tea plantations, the Sustainable Rice Platform, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, gender mainstreaming on climate resilience plans in the Pacific. UN Environment provides a lot of opportunity to engage –at meetings, online, online meeting, draft resolutions can be commented on, etc. There is a resource crisis however and the UN Environment civil society engagement team is smaller. See also section “Towards UNEA-3” about UN Environment engagement.

Accreditation is important. It requires work at an international level – importantly this includes grassroots groups engaging with AP-RCEM.



Susan Stone, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (ESCAP), noted the division's engagement with civil society has been limited. They note there is shrinking space, and that most engagement is with large civil society groups, recently Oxfam. **Difficulties are that some civil society use different language than government officials. Government wants to hear solutions that fit into their mandates. It is within this space that the division would like to engage civil society.** The business community is well represented. **Civil society's voice is needed because there are costs of some policies that are not addressed in traditional analysis.** The division is having an Asia Pacific Innovation Forum early next year, themed Inclusive Innovation, and is looking for grassroots efforts to highlight to government officials.

Reality Check: Civil Society Experiences of Engagement

Directly in reply to Ms. Stone civil society said that **the language barrier is a massive problem: Grassroots groups feel that the language is high-level and technical and that they are not included.** A body like ESCAP **could try to bridge that gap, making technical language accessible.** Trade Agreements cover everything now, so it is important that groups and communities whose lives are impacted know about them. NGOs do try to do some of this translation and look to support from ESCAP and the trade division to do that better. Grassroots groups can say what they are seeing – how women have to walk further to get water because resources are being captured by corporate let in by Trade Agreements.

ACTION POINT: APRCEM could organize connecting government down to grassroots groups.

A critical Cambodian NGO spoke of working in a particularly **closed environment where Cambodia has legally closed spaces for freedom of association, expression, and civil engagement.** Under a new NGO law, CSOs have to register with the government to do any activity. Rather than informing local authorities, reality has been that CSOs have to seek permission. While waiting for that, CSOs have to stop activity or face arrest. CSOs cannot participate in electoral processes and political campaigns, but civil servants and military can. There have been many arrests and even shootings of activists. In meetings, like the UN Thematic Working Groups, when SILAKA does gain a space to attend, they rarely get a microphone.

Disability CSOs spoke of facing discrimination in inclusion in the UN processes outlined by the UN speakers. **Most disabled people do not know how to engage. There are not only physical barriers, but also communication ones.** UN Conventions and the Sendai Framework are too hard for grassroots to understand. With the principle “nothing about us without us” people with disability need meaningful participation and to bridge the information gap. There is not disaggregated data to ensure that varied CSOs are represented. CSOs need budgetary allocation to create more dialogues between CSOs, UN, and government.

CSO PROPOSAL: There needs to be a mechanism to translate UN documents into simple language so grassroots understand and people know how to contribute. There is also need to translate into sign language for accessibility of disabled people.



We need to open the doors for everyone.

- Abia Akram, APWWDU/STEP



Indigenous People's groups spoke of being on the frontline defending their lands, and facing killings and arrest. If an IP leader is killed, cultural heritage is also. IP livelihoods are criminalized, and hundreds of IP are in jail because they cut down a tree or harvested wild honey from the forest, or for contributing to natural resource management. Yet in terms of civil society engagement, ironically the label as a “marginalized group” makes IP groups more invisible.

CSO PROPOSAL: UN Environment projects mentioned should have a targeted project for IP and sustainable management and livelihoods.

If we are always lumped as a marginalised and vulnerable group our distinct rights are not recognized. To the UN: Don't lump us together. We are rights holders. We need to be specifically id and mentioned.
- Joan Carling, Tebtebba, and the AP-RCEM Indigenous Peoples Constituency

Social enterprises in Asia critically asked how UN bodies regionally can **broaden the meaning of “private sector” to include Social and Community Enterprises** which are engaged in community-based innovations for sustainable development. There is a lot of ODA going to impact investing. We should be using the term “social investments” in line with the blended financing that social enterprises need – transactional and transformational services, vs. only the former which impact investors care about only. Governments say that social investments are a mechanism to achieve the SDGs.



2016-2017 -RCEM Progress

AP-RCEM's vision is **not limited to the SDGs or to ESCAP**. AP-RCEM wants to have a coherent, cohesive engagement with the UN system across the region. The platform not only wants to talk about discourse and issues, but crucially also **how the UN and government actually engage with civil society**. Civil society does not want to only react to the UN agenda, but to **build the agenda**.

The way we coordinate ourselves is that we own this process. CSOs set the agenda and then have a partnership with the UN – not starting with the UN agenda. - Wardarina, APWLD



Why AP-RCEM?

- Ensure that the **diversity of Asia Pacific civil society is able to engage** with and influence national, sub-regional, regional and international intergovernmental processes, and
- Ensure that the peoples of Asia Pacific are able to engage with UN system across the region on sustainable development; monitor the implementation of the SDGs on national, regional and global levels; and **hold the UN and governments accountable**.
- **Build and generate power of RCEM constituencies** to pressure governments and to reshape the sustainable development discourse through collective, mobilised actions on development justice.

An **AP-RCEM survey** was open for one week before the workshop. 73% of respondents felt expectations had been met; 27% did not. AP-RCEM will look at why in another survey. Most said they wanted to be more involved in thematic groups, and a good number want to be involved in the coordination committee. Many respondents said AP-RCEM's networking is adequate – even though the network has no resources for this. Organisations are doing this voluntarily, and the network has 3-5 requests daily to be added to the listserv.

Advocacy: Since 2014 ESCAP has recognized AP-RCEM, and the platform has been able to put inputs in agendas and field nominees for discussants. AP-RCEM consolidates inputs through a constituency based approach, and has put out 52 statements regionally and globally. RCEM is being recognized by member states. Asia-Pacific Beijing +20 called for ESCAP to strengthen work with civil society through RCEM. Since 2014, the platform has been trying to shift the way ESCAP and other agencies see the term 'CSO experts' and that these include grassroots. Grassroots groups are able to speak on panels now, but this win needs to be ensured as meaningful, not tokenistic. RCEM has expanded engagement with the UN to UNEP, UNCTAD, AMCDRR, divisions in ESCAP (Trade and Development Division, Macroeconomic Policy and Development).

UNDESA and UNGLS recently invited AP-RCEM to speak on how we can make the civil society engagement mechanism better for HLPF. They made an HLPF Working Group trying to adopt our structure. AP-RCEM coordination has been recognized at the UN level and others want to copy and adopt the model. The ECE is working with the European civil society to make their own RCEM using the same structure and governance.

If I look at the last UNEA, Asia Pacific CSOs had a delegation in Nairobi, and lots of good input came from that. If I would compare this region to Africa, Latin America and even to a degree North America or Europe, something like RCEM does not exist elsewhere. In other regions we lend an ear to individual NGOs but they lack a mandate or legitimacy, which is different from you. This adds a lot more weight to your input.

– Alexander Juras, UN Environment

Upcoming AP-RCEM Elections: There is **currently a nomination process, with elections in May**. In 2015 the platform had a first election - an online election. There was a call for nomination for focal points. Civicus externally looked at the criteria for nomination. The online voting system only allowed constituent groups to vote once and they were not allowed to forward the ballot.

National structure: we need to discuss later on. For now we see ourselves as regional, with subregional constituencies. Our vision is that the subregional focal point can coordinate with national organizations. We need to improve this for the next years.

AP-RCEM Thematic Working Groups (TWC): Currently TWCs are as follows: Land, Energy, Environment, Monitoring and Accountability, Trade and Investments, SRHR, Macroeconomic Policy and Development. There has been a recent suggestion to form an ICT for Change Working Group. TWCs are adhoc, based on needs of the people. The criteria are: 1) Gather 5 members from 5 different constituencies to start the TWC to ensure they are cross-cutting. 2) Send a concept note about the cross cutting nature of the TWC to the RCC.

Finance and fundraising: AP-RCEM is financially independent from the UN. The UN is not setting the agenda. The platform has had funding from SIDA. RCEM leaders give time voluntarily, and the platform fosters and highly values the rare spirit of voluntarism it depends on.

Major Plans:

- Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, 29-31 March 2017
- Election of APRCEM Constituency and Subregional Focal Point, May 2017
- Production of Annual Regional Report on Systemic Barriers, April – July 2017

Ways to Know More and Engage with AP-RCEM:

- Visit the AP-RCEM website: www.asiapacificrcem.org
- Read previous [submissions](#), endorse the RCEM statement: [Advancing a Peoples' Agenda for Development Justice](#)
- Fill in the forms to [join as AP-RCEM constituents](#)
- Follow and like RCEM on Facebook: [CSO Asia Pacific](#)
- **Volunteer** to help with media, social media, and communications work.

Engaging APFSD: CSO Statements and Collective Strategy

The half-day was used for Building CSOs Collective Strategy. This session discussed 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 to shape CSOs engagement in national, regional and international forums. The session gave space to participants to share possible collaborative works – particularly in terms of (1) building the

capacity of Asia Pacific CSOs on development justice, sustainable development issues and processes across UN systems, (2) generating tools, knowledge and resources, (3) engagements with processes within and outside the UN for sustainable development, and (4) building movement and strengthening APRCEM as platform for engagement.

Participants were first instructed to divide themselves into their thematic working groups. Based on the decision at the last CSOP Forum 2015, APRCEM has 6 (six)) thematic working groups which are (1) Sexual, Reproductive, Health and Rights Working Group, (2) Trade, Investment and Corporate Influence Working Group (3) Environment Working Group, (4) Macro economy and Development Policy, (5) Land, (6) Energy and (7) Monitoring and Review.



Each of the thematic working groups was asked to decide on the coordinator and together discuss their collective strategy for one year. After the discussion within these thematic working group, constituency and sub-regional focal points also held meetings to discuss their plans.



Collective CSO Statements

APFSD Consolidated CSO Statement

The drafting committee presented the collective CSO Statement for the APFSD to be discussed and approved by all CSO Forum participants. The final statement can be found here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwlIBYodimgrNWWhNdlICNzZkd0hnYnY0X0RHQ09PYjdTTmlj/view?usp=sharing>

UNEA Statement from the Environmental Working Group

Comment can be made on the statement until 30 April. The Statement will be made in December at UNEA-3. Targetting for CSO positions is to be included in the UN Environment document with an end-April deadline. The Working Group will deliberate online. The statement can be found at:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwlIBYodimgrT01Yc0F5aGY1V3FGQ2c2RUJlKWGxUbWFZQmYw/view?usp=sharing>

APFSD Youth Constituency Statement

The AP-RCEM Youth Constituency prepared a statement for APFSD at the Pre-APFSD Youth Forum, found here:
<http://bit.ly/2n9Xjm5> Their APFSD statement is here:

[http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/CSO%20Statement 3%28a%29 Gender Youth%2C%20Children%20and%20Adolescent.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/CSO%20Statement%203%28a%29%20Gender%20Youth%20Children%20and%20Adolescent.pdf)

APFSD Disability Constituency Statement

The Disability Constituency's APFSD statement is here:

[http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/CSO%20Statement 2%28a%29Persons%20with%20Disability Women.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/CSO%20Statement%202%28a%29%20Persons%20with%20Disability%20Women.pdf)

All Meeting Kits of CSO Forum can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Meeting%20Kit%20-%20CSO%20Forum%20on%20Sustainable%20Development%202017>

Annex. 1

List of Participants

	Name	Organization	Constituency	Country
1	Diyana Yahaya	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (APWLD)	Women	Thailand
2	Kate Lappin	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Women	Thailand
3	Neha Chauhan	International Planned Parenthood Federation, SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE	Women	India
4	Lani Eugenia	(1) PUANTANI (Indonesian Farmer and Rural Women Organization); (2) WAMTI (Indonesian Farmer and Fisher Society Organization)	Fisherfolks	Indonesia
5	Elenita Dano	Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)	S&T	Philippines
6	Abia Akram	APWWDU/STEP	Persons with Disabilities	Pakistan
7	Nagina Tahir		Persons with Disabilities	
8	Patricia Miranda Wattimena	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	Indigenous Peoples	Thailand
9	Wardarina	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Women	Thailand
10	Aaron Ceradoy	Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants	Migrants	Hong Kong
11	Marjorie Pamintuan	Asia Pacific Research Network	NGO	Philippines
12	Maria Lourdes S. Marin	Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters)	People living and affected by HIV	Philippines
13	Emily N. Beridico	Coalition of Services of the Elderly, Inc. (COSE)	Older Groups	Philippines
14	Julius Cainglet	Federation Of Free Workers - International Trade Union Confederation (FFW-ITUC)	Trade Union and Workers	Philippines
15	Daya Sagar Shrestha	NGO Federation of Nepal	NGO	Nepal
16	Gomer Padong	Philippine Social Enterprise Network	Social and Community Enterprise	Philippines
17	Wali Haider	Roots for Equity	Farmers	Pakistan
18	Ranja Sengupta	Third World network	NGO	India
19	Zhang Nanjie	Youth LEAD	Youth, Children and Adolescent	China
20	Kalyani Raj	All India Women's Conference	Women	India
21	Alexandra Johns	Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)	Women	Thailand
22	Dr Monthip Sriratana	Asia Pacific Regional Council / International council of Women	NGO	Thailand
23	Maria Melinda Ando (Malyn)	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Center for Women (ARROW)	Women	Thailand

24	Sanila Gurung	Beyond Beijing Committee	Women	Nepal
25	Losana Tuiraviravi	Fiji Women's Forum	Women	Fiji
26	Panjit Kaewsawang	Foundation for Women (FFW)	Women	Thailand
27	David Corner	Inclusion International	Persons with Disabilities	New Zealand
28	Hamong Santono	International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)	NGO	Indonesia
29	Masaki Inaba	Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs	NGO	Japan
30	Youngsook Cho	Korean Women's Association United (KWAU)	Women	Republic of Korea
31	Prof. Dr. Pam Rajput	Mahila Dakshata Samiti / Women 2030	Women	India
32	Risnawati Utami	Perhimpunan OHANA	Persons with Disabilities	Indonesia
33	Mohd Rizal bin Rozhan	Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER)	Women	Malaysia
34	Urooj Virk	Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan	NGO	Pakistan
35	Dewi Amelia Eka Putri	SERUNI	Women	Indonesia
36	Tadashi Nagai	Soka Gakkai International	NGO	Japan
37	Dianne lockwood	Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific	NGO	Australia
38	Chuthatip	Thailand Environment Institute	NGO	Thailand
39	Raj Kumar Gandharba	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) International	NGO	Nepal
40	Jigid Dulamsuren	World Federation of the Deaf	Persons with Disabilities	Mongolia
41	Bonser Peter	assistant for World Federation of the Deaf		
42	Susan Emerson	assistant for World Federation of the Deaf		
43	Abid Gulzar	World Vision International	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Cambodia
44	Lakshmi Lavanya Rama Iyer	WWF Malaysia	NGO	India
45	Wanun Permpibul	Climate Watch Thailand/CANSEA	NGO	Thailand
46	Pattamon Rungchavalnont	Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage	Academic Institution	Thailand
47	Viva Tatawaqa	DIVA for Equality Fiji	LGBTIQ	Fiji
48	Nargiza Umarova	Ecoforum of Uzbekistan	NGO	Uzbekistan
49	Simon Hoiberg Olsen	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Science and Technology	Japan
50	Rebecca Malay	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement	NGO	Philippines
51	Syed Aminul Hoque	COAST Trust and EquityBD	People affected by conflict and disasters	Bangladesh
52	Meena Bilgi	WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management	Women	India
53	Zarima Koichumanova	Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan	Women	Kyrgyzstan
54	Joan Carling	Tebtebba Foundation (International Indigenous Peoples Cneter of Policy, Research and Education	Indigenous Peoples	Philippines

55	Ajay Kumar Jha	CECOEDECON (Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society)	Farmers	India
56	Hamid Nasheed Mohamed	Disabled Peoples' International MNA-DPI Maldives, / Maldives Association of Physical Disables (MAPD)	Persons with Disabilities	Maldives
57	Ahmed Mohammed		Persons with Disabilities	
58	Denise K.H. Yoon	Korean Civil Society Network on SDGs (KCSN)	NGO	Republic of Korea
59	Ahsin Aligori	Dompot Dhuafa	NGO	Indonesia
60	Cai Yiping	DAWN	Women	China
61	Deepak Sasi Nikarthil	Asia Dalit Right Forum	IP / Dalits	India
62	Dr Monalisa Sen	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia	Local Authorities	India
63	Helen Hakena	Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency	People affected by conflict and disasters	Papua New Guinea
64	Aizhamal Bakashova	PA SHAZET	Women	Kyrgyzstan
65	Lin Mui Kiang	PROHAM - Society for the Promotion of Human Rights	NGO	Malaysia
66	Maria Finesa A. Cosico	AGHAM-Advocates of Science and Technology for the People	Science and Technology	Philippines
67	Achmad Mujoko	Aliansi Remaja Independen	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Indonesia
68	Susmita Choudhury	Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education	NGO/Education	India
69	Cecilia "Thea" V. Soriano	Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)	NGO/Education	Philippines
70	Samreen Shahbaz	Asian Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW)	Women	Malaysia
71	Md. Maruf Rahman	Boys of Bangladesh (BoB)	LGBTIQ	Bangladesh
72	Karin Fernando	Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)	Science and Technology	Sri Lanka
73	Rima Athar	Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)	NGO	Malaysia
74	Anuradha Pareek	Disabled Peoples Organisation (DPO)- Zila Viklang Manch, Bikaner	Persons with Disabilities	India
75	John Hyde	Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)	NGO	Thailand
76	John Raju Parackal	Indian National Trade Union Congress	Trade Union and Workers	India
77	Michaela Guthridge	International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific	Women	Malaysia
78	HyunAh Hana Yi	Korea Green Foundation	NGO	Republic of Korea
79	Sulistri	KSBSI	Trade Union and Workers	Indonesia
80	Fahmida Faiza	Lighthouse Imperium Foundation	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Bangladesh
81	Maya Safira	Oxfam in Indonesia	NGO	Indonesia
82	Bahaluddin Surya	PKBI (Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association)	NGO	Indonesia

83	Shanta Lall Mulmi	Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RECPHECO)		Nepal
84	Saeda Bilkis Bani	Right Here, Right Now Bangladesh Platform		Bangladesh
85	Jisan Mahmud	SERAC-Bangladesh		Bangladesh
86	Reasey Seng	SILAKA	Women	Cambodia
87	Ranjana Giri	Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)	Women	Nepal
88	Fsahat Ul Hassan	Youth Advocacy Network (YAN)	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Pakistan
89	Jeffry Acaba	Youth LEAD	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Thailand
90	Amit Timilsina	YUWA	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Nepal
91	Wawan Erfianto	Presiden Konfederasi Serikat Pekerja (KSPI)	Trade Union and Workers	Indonesia
92	Maulani Agustiah Rotinsulu	ASEAN Disability Forum	Persons with Disabilities	Indonesia
93	Nantanoot Suwannawut	Thailand Association of the Blind	Persons with Disabilities	Thailand
94	Sakshi Rai	Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA)	NGO	India
95	Neeti Biyani	Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability	NGO	India
96	Miss. Nini Pakma (Neiniwanda Enity)	1.National- Indian Drug Users Forum (IDUF) 2. Local- Meghalaya Drug Users Network.(MeDUNet)	People living and affected by HIV	India
97	Rizky Ashar Murdiono	2030 Youth Force	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Indonesia
98	Tikadevi Dahal	National Federation Of The Disabled Nepal (NFDN)	Persons with Disabilities	Nepal
99	S M Shaikat	SERAC-Bangladesh	NGO	Bangladesh
100	Shradha Shreejaya	Thanal	Social and Community Enterprise	India
101	Bhola Prasad Bhattarai	Association of Collaborative Forest Users Nepal (ACOFUN)	Farmers	Nepal
102	Hanieh Moghanie	Azhdari	Indigenous Peoples	Iran
103	April Porteria	Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC)	Science and Technology	Philippines
104	Vernie Yocogan-Diano	Cordillera Women's Education Action Research Center (CWEARC)	Indigenous Peoples	Philippines
105	Padam Bahadur BK (Sushil BK)	Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) Nepal	IP/Dalits	Nepal
106	Budi Laksana	Indonesia Fisherfolk Union	Fisherfolks	Indonesia
107	Pallab Chakma	Kapaeeng Foundation	Indigenous Peoples	Bangladesh
108	Anish Shrestha	Karnali Integrated Development Center (KIDC)	Indigenous Peoples	Nepal
109	P. Suria Rajini	SAHANIVASA	Fisherfolks	India
110	Lesā Fale	Samoa National Youth Council	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Samoa
111	Arumugam Sankar	EMPOWER INDIA	Older Persons	India
112	Sringatin	Asian Migrants Coordinating Body/Indonesian	Migrants	Hong Kong

		Migrant Workers Union		
113	Rama Dhakal (Shilpakar)	National Association Of The Physical Disabled Nepal(NAPD-NEPAL)	Persons with Disabilities	Nepal
114	Rasana Shilpakar (assistant of Ms. Dhakal)		Persons with Disabilities	
115	Rudolf Bastian Tampubolon	GCAP Youth SENCAP	LGBTIQ	Indonesia
116	Jane Brock	Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW, Inc.	Migrants	Australia
117	Baby Rivona Nasution	Indonesia Positive Women Network (IPPI)	People living and affected by HIV	Indonesia
118	Marie Lisa Dacanay	Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia	Social and Community Enterprise	Philippines
119	Mihiri Udayangi Thennakoon	Centre for Environment and Development	NGO	Sri Lanka
120	Luisito M. Pongos	KAFIN Migrant Center (KMC)	Migrants	Japan
121	Choub Sok Chamreun	KHANA	LGBTIQ	Cambodia
122	Olga Djanaeva	Rural women's association "Alga"	Women	Kyrgyzstan
123	Md Pervez Uddin Siddique	WITNESS Bangladesh	NGO	Bangladesh
124	Chinara Aitbaeva	"Nash Vek" Public Foundation	NGO	Kyrgyzstan
125	Daniel Ruiz de Garibay Ponce	World Rural Forum	Farmers	Indonesia
126	Cherry B. Clemente	Migrante International	Migrants	Philippines
127	Bobby Ramakant	CNS (Citizen News Service)	NGO/Media	India
128	Mags Catindig	AsiaDHRRA	NGO	Philippines
129	Azra Talat Sayeed	Roots for Equity	Farmers	Pakistan
130	Deepesh Paul Thakur	World Vision International	Youth, Children and Adolescent	Philippines
131	Sarah Zaman	Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre (SG)	Women	Pakistan
132	Trinanjana Radhakrishnan	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)	NGO	India
133	Pankaj Jain	Sulabh International Social Service Organization , New Delhi	NGO	India
134	Ariane Lim	Philippine Social Enterprise Network	Social and Community Enterprise	Philippines
135	Yevgeniya Kozyreva	Feminist League	Women	Kazakhstan
136	Muhammad Akram	IFHOH and Asia Pacific Federation of Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD)	Persons with Disabilities	Pakistan
137	assistant to Mr Akram (Aqeel Ur Rehman Hameed)		Persons with Disabilities	
138	Babu Ram Pant	Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON)		Nepal
139	Raditya	Rumah Cemara		Indonesia

140	Yodhim Gudel Dela Rosa	Reality of Aid Network (Asia Pacific)		Philippines
141	Nur Hidayati Handayani	Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights		Indonesia

25	anand singh	Education International Asia Pacific Region	Trade Union and Workers	Malaysia
176	Usha Nair	All India Women's Conference		India
177	Lauro L. Purcil	ASEAN Disability Forum-Philippines		Philippines
178	Gam Awungshi Shimray	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact		Thailand
179	Tarafder Md. Arifur Rahman	Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP)		Bangladesh
180	Faisal Hayat (Inaya Hamdan)	Blue Veins		Pakistan
181	Dr. Safieh Shahriari Afshar	Family Health Association of Iran		Iran
182	Phorng Chanthorn	Khana		Cambodia
183	Prasant Kumar Paikray	POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti (PPSS)		India
184	Grace Balawag	Tebtebba-Indigenous Peoples International centre for Policy Research and Education		Philippines
185	Muhammed Quamrul Islam Chowdhury	Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ)		Bangladesh
186	Renuka Kad	Vikas Adhyayan Kendra	Fisherfolks	India
187	Thai Ming Yeow	Malaysian Youth Council	NGO	Malaysia
173	Dipayan Dey	South Asian Forum for Environment		India
174	Jayesh Joshi	Vaagdhara		India
157	Michael Philip G. Beltran	KADAMAY	Urban Poor	Philippines
158	Jonas Bagas	APCASO		Philippines
159	Elsa	International Presentation Association		India
160	Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk	Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)		Thailand
161	Saffran Mihnar	Centre for Environment and Development		Sri Lanka
162	Ms. Zahra Fathi Geshnigani	Family Health Association of Iran		Iran
163	Meda Guruudtt Prasad	ACTION (Association for Rural and Tribal Development)		India
164	Rakhi Das Purkayastha	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad		Bangladesh
165	AHM Bazlur Rahman	Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication		Bangladesh
166	Pramod Kumar Sharma	Centre for Environment Education		India
167	S. M. Faridul Haque	Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)		Bangladesh
168	Dulal Biswas	National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh		Bangladesh
169	Savina Daulaasi	Pacific Disability Forum		Solomon Islands

170	Sabir Farhat	Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization		Pakistan
171	Priti Darooka	PWESCR		India
126	Lorraine Siraba	Papua New Guinea Education Advocacy Network	NGO	Papua New Guinea
146	Penchom Saetang	Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand (EARTH)	NGO	Thailand
148	Marevic Parcon	Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights		Philippines
149	Ali Raza Shah	Shirkat Gah		Pakistan
150	Raz Mohd Dalili	Sanayee Development Organization - SDO		Afghanistan
151	Nalini Singh	Fiji Young Women's Forum/Fiji Women's Rights Movement		Fiji
152	Jayaratne Kananke	Sevanatha		Sri Lanka
153	Abhiram Roy	WORE Nepal		Nepal
154	Gessen Camantigue Rocas	International Planned Parenthood Federation - East South East Asia and Oceania Region (IPPF-ESEAOR)		Malaysia
155	Myra Vieta G. Mabilin	Urban Poor Resource Center Of The Philippines	Urban Poor	Philippines
137	Jun-E Tan	Asian Solidarity Economy Council (Malaysian Chapter)	Social and Community Enterprise	Malaysia
138	Tarannum Jinan	Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)	NGO	Bangladesh
140	Dr. Laddawan Tantivitayapitak	Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD)	NGO	Thailand
141	Aisha Agha	Sindh Community Foundation	NGO	Pakistan
142	Javed Hussain	Sindh Community Foundation	NGO	Pakistan
132	Ravindra Shakya	Restless Development		Nepal

Annex 2.

2017 AP-RCEM Survey Results: Primary Systemic Barriers to Sustainable Development

Respondents from 144 Asia-Pacific CSOs from 25 countries took the survey. South and Southeast Asia CSOs were majority respondents though all Asia-Pacific regions were represented. 56% of the CSO respondents work mainly at a national level. The respondents represent all constituencies, except Social and Community Enterprise and Local Authorities. Main respondents were from NGO and women constituencies. Their work covers all the SDGs, with the majority of respondents working on Goals 1, 3, 5, and 16, as well as Goals 2, 4, 8, and 13 close behind. Respondents work least on Goals 9, 12, and 14.

The below graphs give the summary findings from the study, though much more data was gathered and disaggregated. See powerpoint titled “Session 1. Exploring Regional Trends in Asia Pacific: Identifying Systemic Barriers” or contact AP-RCEM for more detailed analysis. The AP-RCEM survey team was comprised of Wardarina from APWLD, Simon Olsen from IGES, Neth Dano from ETC Group, Nurlan From Kyrgyzstan, Gomer Padong from Philsen, and Karin Fernando from CEPA.

The result of the survey can be found [HERE](#)

Appendix 4: UNEA-3 Draft Agenda

November 29 – December 1, 2017	Open Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives		
December 2 – 3, 2017	Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum	Science-Policy Forum	Meeting of Executive Director with Regional Groups

PRELIMINARY STRUCTURE FOR THE 2017 ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY: Revised 22 March 2017					
	Monday 4 December 2017		Tuesday 5 December 2017		Wednesday 6 December 2017
	Regional Groups Meeting		Regional Groups Meeting		Regional Groups Meeting
10:00- 13:00	Opening Plenary - Functional opening [President and Executive Director] -Short General Statements from Regional and Political Groups		High Level Segment Official Opening		Plenary -Pledges/ Commitments from Governments/Private Sectors
			National Statements (List of speakers)	Leadership Dialogue (Moderated)	
	Committee of the Whole				Ministerial Outcome
13:00 -15:00	Lunch Break		Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue	Media Events	Media Events
15:00- 18:00	Committee of the Whole		National Statements (List of speakers)	Leadership Dialogue (Moderated)	Plenary Session -Adoption of resolutions and outcomes
				Leadership Dialogue (Moderated)	Closing Plenary
18:00- 19:00	Media Events	Side Events	Side Events	Planet Unplugged (Moderated)	Media Events
19:00- 21:00	Committee of the Whole		National Statements (List of speakers)	Leadership Dialogue (Moderated)	
	Host Country Reception				

a.