



Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

SESSION 3: REGIONAL ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FORM AND FUNCTION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW PROCESS

NGO Constituency Statement

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I am Prerna Bomzan from LDC Watch and I speak here on behalf of the NGO Constituency of the Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism.

We appreciate that Member States as well as other stakeholders from the Asia and the Pacific have come together for the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, which brings the opportunity and space to critically reflect and learn from the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, as we move ahead with the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This means strengthened and accelerated political ownership and leadership and setting up national and regional mechanisms to attain the objective of leaving no one behind. Inequality both within and between countries is a critical issue in the region, one that will require both national and regional level actions. On the one hand, there are the most marginalised and vulnerable populations who are struggling to make their voices heard and rights ensured. On the other hand, the region is home to 13 UN-defined least developed countries (LDCs) comprising also of landlocked and small island states whose vulnerabilities and special needs must be addressed, which therefore calls for keeping these countries at the centre stage of regional priority. There is strong regional commonality to our problems and solutions.

To reach our objectives within the context of the 2030 Agenda, the Asia-Pacific clearly needs a regional forum such as the APFSD, which is multi-stakeholder in nature, led by governments and supported by UN-ESCAP. The HLPF clearly provides the mandate for this.

To start with, the APFSD must be the space for learning. For example, a **critical review** of past mechanisms that had regional components such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, will be important to ensure a better use of regional mechanisms. We anticipate the creation of a regular and dynamic review and follow-up mechanism, which can explore opportunities for cross-learning, regional cooperation, and shared accountability for regional challenges and opportunities.

We also want to underscore that the implementation of the SDGs must not only be limited to ensuring outputs and outcomes but more importantly, to identify and rectify **structural obstacles** that impede implementation.

Finally, the APFSD must provide institutionalized space, including appropriate funding and technical support for widest possible stakeholders' participation at all levels as laid down in the High Level Political Forum Resolution and ensure principle of non-regression in civil society



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participation. At the national and local levels, governments must ensure the rightful participation of CSOs as a major stakeholder in the events leading up to the preparation of reporting and review in the HLPF.

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