



**Narrative Report:**

**“Consolidating & Reaching Out for Development Justice”  
Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development**

*Bangkok, 15-17 May 2014*



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## SUMMARY

A civil society consultation was held on May 15-17, 2014 in the lead up to the inaugural Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). The consultation attended by 70 participants from the regions aimed to share updates and strategies as well as examine priorities, challenges, and recommendations related to the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A particular focus of this consultation was seeking dialogue and consensus around a new civil society engagement facilitation mechanism for sustainable development. The summary of the results of the meeting are as follow:

The Asia Pacific region has seen rapid growth, and significant improvements in the lives of millions of people over the last decades but grave challenges remain. The region still has the largest concentration of people without adequate food, income and employment. Inequalities in the distribution of wealth, power and resources between and within countries, and among rich and poor, men and women, social groups, and current and future generations, are growing and undermining wellbeing for the majority of the population. Unplanned and unregulated urbanisation is increasing and environmental conditions are deteriorating rapidly especially in ecologically sensitive areas such as oceans, forests and mountain regions. Climate change is threatening the lives and futures of entire populations, particularly in the Pacific islands. All of these challenges are threatening the livelihoods of many, including small farmers and fishers and driving migration on an unprecedented scale. Women, migrants and young people in particular are trapped in vulnerable situations and face serious barriers to fully and freely participate in the different arenas of society. Health remains a critical challenge, with limited progress addressing sexual, reproductive, and child health, HIV, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases, a growing burden of non-communicable diseases, and the spread of toxic chemicals. Human rights violations and environmentally destructive practices are often committed with impunity by large corporations, elites and other power holders with the support or complicity of state forces.

The Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development offers an opportunity to define the region's own development priorities and pathways. AP CSOs urge governments, global and regional institutions to act on the following recommendations:

### **1. On integration and transformation for sustainable development:**

Achieve development justice by implementing fundamental structural changes and putting people, particularly marginalized communities, at the centre. In particular, eliminate inequalities through the redistribution and control of resources, wealth and power, including through progressive taxation; develop economies that enable dignified lives and guarantee rights to decent work, livelihoods, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education, energy, water and sanitation for all; secure land rights for landless women and men; guarantee sexual and reproductive rights; eliminate all forms of discrimination, marginalization, exclusion and violence, particularly on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression; address fundamentalism and end impunity; and ensure accountability to the people.

### **2. On shared prosperity within planetary boundaries:**

Distribute the benefits of development more equally and universalize access to quality public social services, including by reallocating resources from military spending to public goods. Establish a production system that takes into account the real environmental costs of

products and services and increase demand for more sustainable products and services. Promote low-carbon development through carbon-neutral sources of energy, the reduction of energy use, and the expansion of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems and eliminate fossil fuel subsidies. Reorient production, consumption and distribution systems, natural resource management and extraction towards peoples' needs and to maintain ecological balance. Advance biodiversity-based ecological agriculture and food sovereignty and curtail corporate control of industrial food production systems.

### **3. On governance, peace and rule of law:**

Base the SDGs on and fully implement existing international and regional agreements, conventions and treaties; ensure the participation and leadership of civil society, people's organizations, social movements, youth, and other stakeholders in decision and policy making and accountability mechanisms at all levels; ensure the full realization of all human rights; end corruption; guarantee the right to information; guarantee accountable and democratic systems of governance, strong judiciaries, and access to justice. Establish a binding regulatory framework to ensure corporate sector accountability for activities that threaten sustainable development and human rights.

### **4. On means of implementation:**

Commit to means of implementation and an effective global partnership based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to realize the right to development. Raise finances through increased development assistance, progressive taxation, financial transaction taxes and the redirection of military spending. Implement effective debt cancellation and restructuring mechanisms. Eliminate tax havens, illicit capital flows and discourage remittance-based financing of development. Prioritise public sector financing over public-private partnerships and strengthen corporate accountability and regulation. Go beyond technology transfer to support and build local capacity and innovation, promote endogenous and traditional knowledge and technology; ensure access by marginalized groups; and overcome IPR barriers, especially on access to medicine. Reform trade and investment rules to protect and promote local production and employment, especially of farmers, fishers and other small producers. Commit to monitoring, evaluation and reporting, disaggregated data collection, as well as greater accountability and transparency.

### **5. On the way forward:**

AP CSOs call upon the UN and the HLPF to effectively:

- a. Establish mechanisms to transform the approach of the UN, international institutions and governments to ensure policy coherence and engage with contentious issues;
- b. Initiate regional and sub-regional level peer review mechanisms to evaluate performance on sustainable development that involve all stakeholders;
- c. Establish special rapporteurs to assess progress, challenges and offer recommendations on how to address key sustainable development issues; and
- d. Develop accountability and reporting mechanisms for all stakeholders involved in financing sustainable development, including UN Agencies, international financial and trade institutions, transnational corporations and the private sector.

To facilitate and institutionalize civil society participation in development processes, we call upon the HLPF, Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) members, and governments to:

- a. Recognize civil society has the experience and technical expertise to contribute to constructive development debates based on our work from the grassroots to the global levels;
- b. Ensure that civil society engages not only as observers, but as partners with equal rights in policy development, implementation, monitoring and accountability in all regional and global mechanisms, including the APFSD and High Level Political Forum;
- c. Institutionalize civil society participation in all sustainable development processes through a regional civil society engagement mechanism designed by civil society themselves.

Finally, we as civil society commit to work together with governments and other institutions to promote just and sustainable development for the people of Asia and the Pacific. AP CSOs attended the meeting agreed to formulate an Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism, starting with a transition mechanism that would be in place until 2015. A focal person was selected for each constituency and sub-region to be part of the transition committee. This committee would be responsible for developing a detailed action plan on engaging different constituencies, ensuring a strong mandate for itself, and testing and refining features of the RCEM.

## INTRODUCTION

A civil society consultation was held from 15-17 May 2014 on the theme “Consolidating and reaching out for development justice.” 70 Participants came from civil society organizations across Asia and the Pacific, and included women’s rights, indigenous, migrant and workers’ rights, and environmental justice activists and researchers. Representatives of UN agencies based in Bangkok were invited as observers. The consultation preceded the annual APFSD, convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and co-hosted by the Government of Thailand.

The three-day forum had the following objectives:

- To inform and capacitate civil society participants on sustainable development at the global and regional levels, and on the opportunities and modalities for engaging these processes.
- To hold a dialogue on the content and substance of the APFSD and formulate civil society positions building on Asia-Pacific civil society messages on Post-Rio+20 and Post-2015 development agendas and strategize interventions at the APFSD.
- To unite on the creation of an Asia-Pacific civil society engagement facilitation mechanism for sustainable development.
- To agree on joint actions and follow up to civil society positions adopted.

The consultation was convened by UNESCAP in collaboration with Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law, and Development (APWLD) and Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). It was held in Bangkok, Thailand.

### Welcome Remarks by Masakazu Ichimura, UNESCAP

In his opening address, Masakazu, Chief of the Environment and Development Policy section of UNESCAP, noted that the APFSD and this civil society consultation were part of a process that would bring regional voices, including civil society voices, to the high-level political forum (HLPF). The APFSD would discuss the substance of sustainable development and regional priorities on transformation, integration, sharing of prosperity, and means of implementations. The APFSD would also establish a new regional mechanism, and this consultation would aim in part to gather regional input on a mechanism for civil society participation.

Masakazu closed by thanking APWLD, TEI, and the Interim Group for helping to convene this consultation.

### Welcome Remarks by Wardarina, APWLD

Wardarina focused her remarks on the need to reframe the development agenda to one that focuses on redistributive, economic, social, and environmental justice as well as accountability to peoples. She pointed to wide acknowledgement of the failures of current development and economic models, which are unsustainable and have led to deepening inequalities and environmental crises.

Wardarina then introduced the members of the Interim Group, which formed at a UNESCAP meeting in October 2013 in order to facilitate a process of formulating a CSO mechanism for Asia and the Pacific. The Interim Group consists of:

- Wardarina, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development,

- Marjorie Pamintuan of Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN),
- Uchita de Zoysa of Centre for Environment and Development (CED)
- Cai Yiping of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN),
- Neth Dano of ETC Group
- Simon Olsen of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES),
- Paul Quintos of IBON International
- Ranja Sengupta and Yoke Ling of Third World Network (TWN)
- Meena Bilgi of WOCAN

Wardarina concluded her remarks with a word of acknowledgment to Commonwealth Foundation and UNESCAP for their support in bringing together civil society groups for this consultation.

After an overview of the agenda for this consultation, participants viewed a short video: “Road to Development Justice” produced by APWLD and Campaign for People’s Goals for Sustainable Development. The video captures the impacts of neoliberal globalization and rising levels of inequality, both on the region and globally.

## Overview of Post-Rio+20 & Opportunities for engagement and Influencing the Sustainable Development Agenda and Processes at Global, Regional and National Level.

A panel comprising Simon Olsen of IGES, Masakazu Ichimura of UNESCAP, and Wardarina of APWLD identified and discussed post-Rio+20 processes and opportunities for engaging these at global, regional, and national levels to influence the sustainable development agenda. This panel was chaired by Neth Dano of ETC Group, who also provided an overview of Rio+20 and its outcomes.

### IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE: THE ROAD FROM RIO+20 TO POST-2015 by Neth Dano, ETC Group

Neth explained that one of the main outcomes of Rio+20, or the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, was the agreement by member states to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Rio+20 did not elaborate specific goals but stated that the SDGs should be limited in number, aspirational and easy to communicate. The goals should address in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

The Rio+20 outcome document, "The Future We Want", mandated the creation of an intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) that would submit a report to the 68th General Assembly in September 2013 containing proposals for sustainable development goals, an intergovernmental expert working group on financing sustainable development, and the HLPF to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development. It also called for discussions on a technology facilitation mechanism.

The OWG comprises 30 seats, some shared by several countries. Member states represented on the OWG are:

#### **African Group**

1. Algeria / Egypt / Morocco / Tunisia
2. Ghana
3. Benin
4. Kenya
5. United Republic of Tanzania
6. Zambia / Zimbabwe
7. Congo

#### **Asia-Pacific Group**

1. Nauru / Palau / Papua New Guinea
2. Bhutan / Thailand / Vietnam
3. India / Pakistan / Sri Lanka
4. China / Indonesia / Kazakhstan
5. Cyprus / Singapore / United Arab Emirates
6. Bangladesh / Republic of Korea / Saudi Arabia

7. Iran / Japan / Nepal

#### **Eastern European Group**

1. Hungary
2. Belarus / Serbia
3. Bulgaria / Croatia
4. Montenegro / Slovenia
5. Poland / Romania

#### **Latin American and Caribbean Group**

1. Colombia / Guatemala
2. Bahamas / Barbados
3. Guyana / Haiti / Trinidad and Tobago
4. Mexico / Peru
5. Brazil / Nicaragua
6. Argentina / Bolivia / Ecuador



### **Western European and Others Group**

1. Australia / Netherlands / United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

2. Canada / Israel / United States of America
3. Denmark / Ireland / Norway
4. France / Germany / Switzerland
5. Italy / Spain / Turkey

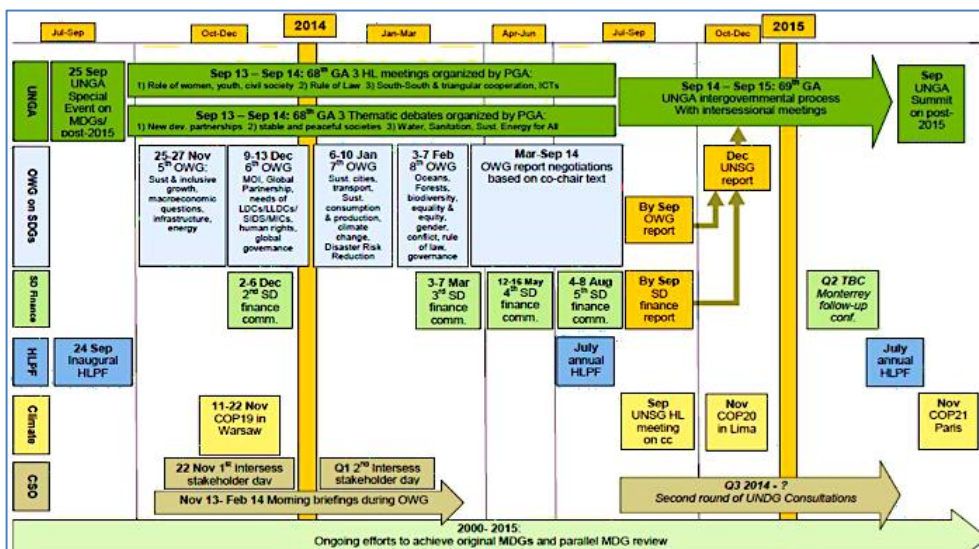
Two OWG sessions remain and are expected to finish in July. The UN General Assembly (GA) will then determine if the proposals from the OWG would be negotiated among the larger GA or simply adopted.

GA President John Ashe is in the midst of holding meetings on issues that are key and require civil society input. The three high-level events this year cover (i) "Contributions of women, the young, and civil society to the post-2015 development agenda", (ii) "Human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda", (iii) "Contributions of South-South, triangular cooperation, and ICT for development to the post-2015 development agenda". Another three thematic debates would be on (i) "The role of partnerships", (ii) "Ensuring stable and peaceful societies", and (iii) "Water, sanitation, and sustainable energy in the post-2015 development agenda".

Member states agreed in Rio+20 to establish an intergovernmental process to conduct an open and broad consultation with relevant international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders. This consultation would aim to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives. A report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives would be prepared. An intergovernmental committee, comprising 30 experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, has been tasked to implement this process, concluding its work by 2014. During its first session, the committee elected two co-chairs: Ambassador Pertti Majanen from Finland and Mansur Muhtar from Nigeria. A Working Group on Financing for Sustainable Development has been set up under the UN System Task Team to support the work of the committee. The intergovernmental committee is currently in the process of holding regional consultations.

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) was also established at Rio+20. Its tasks and functions include providing political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development, reviewing progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments (once these have been adopted), enhancing the integration of the three-dimensions of sustainable development, and producing a focused, dynamic, and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges. Neth noted that the HLPF represents both an opportunity and a challenge. Meetings such as the APFSD would allow for input into the modalities of the HLPF at the regional level. She also noted that while the CSD met every year, the HLPF would only meet every year at the ministerial level at ECOSOC, while heads of state would meet every four years.

Neth pointed participants to [sustainabledevelopment.un.org](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org) for more information about SDG-related processes. She then noted some upcoming events and opportunities for civil society engagement, as captured in the diagram below.



## OPPORTUNITIES OF CSO ENGAGEMENT IN GLOBAL LEVEL

by Simon Olsen, IGES

Simon noted that the last two OWG sessions would take place June 16-20 (OWG 12) and July 14-16 (OWG 13). The intergovernmental committee meetings will run in parallel, but these are not as open as the OWG so it is unclear if there are opportunities to influence that process. Reports from both processes will be submitted to the UN Secretary General in July. The UNGA process will start in September and continue through 2015. Aminah Mohamad from the HLPF has been tasked to produce the synthesis report; beyond that, the process is unclear. The HLPF will convene in late June through July.

It was also noted that civil society groups based outside New York could contribute by engaging with delegations from capital. They can also keep up with events and statements through [UN Web TV](#) and [PaperSmart](#). Additionally, there are some opportunities for funding for civil society delegates.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND PROCESSES AT REGIONAL LEVEL

by Masakazu Ichimaru, UNESCAP

The HLPF will be convened by the GA every four years and ECOSOC in other years, with meetings under ECOSOC to benefit from annual regional & sub-regional preparatory processes involving relevant regional entities, major groups, and other relevant stakeholders. Masakazu noted that the APFSD on May 19-21 would be the first regional meeting for the HLPF, and the format and timing of these preparatory processes would be discussed at this APFSD. There would be regional and sub-regional preparatory processes in April to June every year from 2015 onwards. This is in keeping with GA resolution 67/290, which states that the HLPF “shall benefit from regional preparatory processes involving relevant regional entities, major groups, and other relevant stakeholders.” Masakazu added that ECOSOC would welcome civil society contributions to these regional and sub-regional preparatory processes.

The most immediate engagement opportunity for CSOs is to contribute to the major group position papers developed by Stakeholder Forum. This exercise is supported by the European Commission’s stakeholder engagement programme. Major group position papers, developed for each major group, detail the its vision and priorities including themes, goals, targets, and indicators for the SDGs and wider post-2015 development agenda as well as the HLPF. The papers provide major groups with an opportunity to communicate and consult on its position

as a basis for ongoing stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and advocacy under the HLPF process. The papers welcome inputs from the regional level. They will be updated by the respective major groups in September 2014.

Masakazu listed some upcoming opportunities at the regional and sub-regional level for influencing the new development agenda. These include:

- Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing  
— 10-11 June 2014, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Sub-regional Advocacy Workshop on MDGs for South East Asia  
— 24-26 June, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Sub-regional Advocacy Workshop on MDGs for Central Asia  
— 9-11 September (TBC), Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Regional Meeting on Financing Graduation Gaps of Asia-Pacific LDCs  
— 28-30 October, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Regional workshop to exchange information and experiences in cross-country and cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination in achieving the MDGs in selected LDCs  
— 11-13 November, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

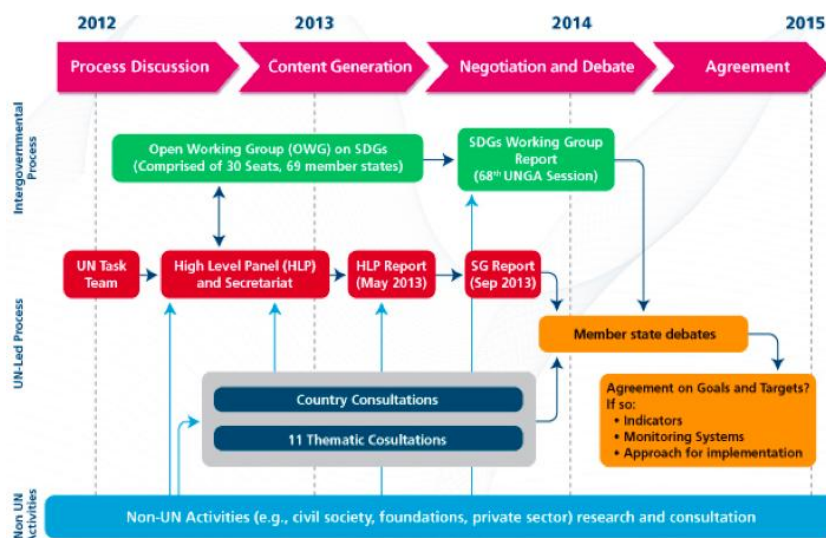
Masakazu highlighted the Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing, which will be co-hosted by UNESCAP and the Government of Indonesia. It will bring together leading public and private sector figures to discuss financing strategies for sustainable development for the region. It will also feed into ongoing outreach by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The details of all upcoming meetings listed above will be on [UNESCAP's website](#).

In addition to these opportunities, it was noted that other one-off events and discussions led by various UN agencies, such as UNEP, would also be taking place in the lead up to 2015.

## **LESSON LEARNT: CSO ENGAGEMENT AT REGIONAL LEVEL**

**by Wardarina, APWLD**

APWLD engages in both post-Rio and post-2015 processes (summarized in the diagram below). Wardarina pointed to a series of consultations at the regional level in which APWLD has been involved, noting that regional processes were more complicated as there is no consolidated mechanism. She also shared a reflection regularly voiced by civil society that it was difficult for vocal, progressive groups to get invited to national consultations despite outreach efforts by UN agencies. A mapping of government bodies to approach on various issues and processes would be helpful in trying to overcome this issue.



Other concerns about these processes include the sense that they are far too “top-down”, technocratic, and New York-centric. There are also far too many consultations, making it difficult to keep up. National and regional CSOs need greater capacity to engage these processes, and this engagement must go beyond meeting rooms and three-minute statements. CSOs need to work as monitors and advocates for their constituencies to help ensure genuine public participation including at regional and sub-regional levels.

## Discussion

Questions and comments from the floor focused on issues and challenges with engaging post-Rio and post-2015 processes, including a lack of resources, the proliferation of events with few mechanisms to ensure coherence and meaningful civil society participation, and a gap between CSOs and governments as well as between mission and capital. Several participants stressed the need to focus on local and national advocacy and to raise awareness at the grassroots level on global and regional processes. Some suggestions were made as to how this could be done.

**On resources for mobilization and advocacy:** In the lead up to Rio ’92, many resources were made available to generate discussions and mobilise at the national and regional level. With post-2015, the UN seems to be relying on civil society to generate public discussions and engagement using its own resources. One suggestion was to lobby for fines of private firms that violate laws and protections and to feed that money to organizations that protect consumer *etc.* rights, as Bangladesh has done.

**On challenges for civil society engagement:** Among issues identified were narrow and filtered spaces for civil society, labyrinthine processes and selective inclusion of civil society in these, proliferation of terms and reports, lack of accountability, and a disconnect in levels of information. Suggestions made include information sharing by those who are engaged in these processes through summary reports or narratives that pick out salient points. One participant, who serves as Nepal’s Beyond 2015 focal point, mentioned that she has been involved in post-2015 since 2010 and focuses on bringing information back to her country, collecting views from the ground, and feeding them into the women’s major group, all without the government’s involvement. She suggested that other countries appoint civil society focal points as well. Satwant Kaur at UNEP encouraged CSOs to continue engaging and stated that she and Hitomi Rankine at UNESCAP could provide a list of areas and avenues to engage. UNEP would also ensure that upcoming opportunities are disseminated. Hitomi added that

the APFSD was a good opportunity to challenge the UN system to do better as many of the issues raised were persistent problems. We should aim for an effective regional mechanism that will initiate change instead of merely replicating New York *etc.* processes.

**On challenges for mission engagement:** It was noted that missions do not necessarily have the capacity to engage meaningfully. OWG sessions have thus far proven to be essentially an exercise in diplomacy, with very little science. Brazil and other countries have pointed out this issue and asked for more time to engage. Other issues noted were the large gap between mission and capital in terms of positions and information and the unapproachability of many missions.

**On lobbying at the national level:** It is important to work and dialogue with national governments, sharing information and research with them, so that delegates from capital can bring these positions to international meetings. CSOs should engage the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as any relevant ministries. They should also approach the Permanent Representative with messaging that is consistent in order to make lobbying more effective. The importance of bringing outcomes of national consultations to regional processes and ensuring civil society interventions at regional processes was also stressed. CSOs should be familiar with their government's positions and how these may have changed in order to strategize effectively. One way to do this is to refer to the bottom of past OWG summaries for attributions (though there have been inaccuracies and attributions will not be included in upcoming sessions). A backgrounder prepared by APWLD would also be distributed to help with this. A participant added that intergovernmental platforms such as SAARC and ASEAN should also be used to lobby governments as has been successfully done with consumer protections laws.

**On engaging the grassroots:** A participant from a rural women's collective referred to research done by her network that showed deep unawareness at the local level on global processes and the new development agenda. She called on CSOs to mobilize and carry the voices of their communities and raise awareness about what is happening at global and regional levels. The need to strengthen mechanisms for advocacy and knowledge sharing at the local level was also acknowledged.

## CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES IN ASIA PACIFIC

This session included a presentation by Interim Group member Uchita de Zoysa (CED) on the proposal for the establishment of a regional CSO engagement mechanism to ensure effective engagement with sustainable development processes in Asia and the Pacific. Participants were also invited to share their expectations of CSO engagement with regional processes. Thereafter participants broke into their respective major groups to discuss concerns and formulate recommendations to be included in the civil society declaration.

### A REGIONAL CSO/STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM FOR POST 2015: PROPOSAL FROM ASIA-PACIFIC REGION by Uchita de Zoysa, CED

This presentation focused on the rationale for and main features of the proposed RCEM. Uchita began with an overview of key sustainable development events, *i.e.*, the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), UN Conference on Environment and Development or “Earth Summit” (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), and UN Conference on Sustainable Development or “Rio+20” (Rio de Janeiro, 2012), noting the importance of seeing these as political processes.

Over time, intergovernmental deliberations have come to include a wide range of external actors such as CSOs, constituency groups, private sector entities, local authorities, and parliamentarians. Uchita quoted the current UN Secretary General and his immediate predecessor, who have both noted the need for governments and the UN to enhance cooperation with civil society.

Since the establishment of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in 1993, the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21 have become the main engagement modality for non-governmental actors in parts of the UN system. These nine major groups are:

- Business and Industry
- Children and Youth
- Farmers
- Indigenous Peoples
- Local Authorities
- NGOs
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Workers and Trade Unions

However, non-state actor engagement in UN processes is evolving beyond these major groups, and agencies such as FAO, WHO, and UNFCCC have differing models of CSO engagement.

Citing a paper by Barbara Adams and Lou Pinget, Uchita argued that the major groups mechanism is aimed at control rather than engagement. While formalizing non-governmental participation, it has reduced the scope and role of CSO engagement within the UN system. This is mainly because civil society and the private sector are lumped together and forced to come to agreement without facilitation. Placing diverse major groups in a uniform engagement mechanism has created limited space for more radical social groups to voice their opinion and affect change within intergovernmental negotiations and other processes. Nevertheless, it is a



mandated mechanism with some degree of success, thus civil society should seek not to remove but to improve it.

There is currently no across-the-board system for engagement between civil society and the UN system. Different UN agencies employ different accreditation mechanisms and systems of organizing the engagement of non-state actors in intergovernmental processes, and different venues provide different criteria for participation. A coherent civil society engagement mechanism is crucial to bring about a “global partnership for sustainable development” as called for in Rio+20. The engagement mechanism should be seen as a broad and evolving process that can be adopted globally and is not limited to a regional scope. An isolated mechanism would not be effective in shaping a strong and inclusive agenda for sustainable development and global transformation.

Such a mechanism should be institutionalized and designed by civil society themselves. This would ensure civil society input in all aspects of policymaking and facilitate clear procedural pathways for engagement. At the same time, care should be taken to sustain the dynamism of civil society engagement.

The proposed RCEM would provide civil society with the opportunity for agenda setting, agenda shaping, and substantive input into the post-Rio and post-2015 processes. Its mandate would be to coordinate and facilitate the engagement of CSOs with the UN system in Asia and the Pacific. Specifically, it would coordinate with and provide guidance to UN agencies and processes in the region related to sustainable development to facilitate CSO engagement as well as ensure a broad mandate for and build the capacity of CSO representatives. In this, the RCEM will focus on complementing and advancing civil society engagement beyond the major groups.

According to Uchita, the RCEM should seek to be inclusive in both qualitative and quantitative terms to enhance the credibility and public acceptability of outcomes. It should ensure diverse representation as well as balanced representativeness among major groups and stakeholders, countries and sub-regions, and themes or issues. Each of these groups would have their own roles and responsibilities to fulfill within the RCEM. There should also be criteria pertaining to gender balance and participation from grassroots and marginalized groups to ensure their voices are heard.

Members of the proposed RCEM would serve in a voluntary capacity, either as representatives of the nine major groups and other identified stakeholder groups, sub-regions, and thematic experts. They would be elected through a nominating and mandating process. They would liaise with UN agencies and process authorities, making nominations for event and process participation, coordinating regional and sub-regional outreach and engagement, developing content on issues, *etc.*

The Interim Group will be dissolved, and a new Transition Committee replacing the Interim Group will be created and mandated to incubate and test the RCEM until early to mid 2016 at this consultation. As soon as it is convened, the Transition Committee will start working on a detailed action plan.

Uchita ended by underscoring the need to recognize the political dynamics of CSO engagement while avoiding fragmentation and seeking convergence. Other points for consideration include strategically engaging and building partnerships with UN system and intergovernmental processes and realizing that the RCEM would now enter a phase of

transition in which the RCEM would be determined and fine-tuned. An effective RCEM could reshape CSO and stakeholder engagement globally, and the region will be watched for this mechanism.

## Discussion

The discussion focused on the current context and modalities for CSO engagement with some suggestions on how to address and build on these. A new engagement mechanism should provide coherence and synergy rather than perpetuate the duplication and fragmentation rife in the UN system.

**On other CSO engagement modalities:** It was noted that stakeholder engagement mechanisms for groups working on migration and AIDS were far advanced and that the UN is seeing a push for intermediaries between national and global levels. RCEM should not pressure existing mechanisms to come under one umbrella or seek to replace them but serve as a hub for information to be shared and for global and local level CSOs to share experiences.

**On lessons from current mechanisms:** A question was asked about lessons drawn from current UNEP and UNESCAP modalities for engaging CSOs. A UNEP officer replied that there have been many suggestions from CSOs for improvements to the existing mechanisms. UNEP has five secretariats for youth. These are voluntary positions for organizations, which are expected to assign two staff to the work. There is a national focal point for each secretariat. Currently, UN agencies are consolidating as part of a move towards “one UN” and this includes a call for a global voluntary mechanism. RCEM is thus right for the moment.

**On frustrations about CSO engagement in the regional level:** Some concerns were raised about current modalities for engaging CSOs, namely on inequitable access and lack of information, lack of continuity from one meeting to another, and the need to set expectations for focal persons and organizations to ensure they represent regional civil society views and interests rather than their organization’s position alone. A series of actions were proposed in Kathmandu after Rio+20, and this meeting should build on such discussions.

**On shrinking spaces for CSOs:** Civil society space for engagement seems to be increasingly constricted, and some countries have questioned civil society’s ability to put forward decision points and position as observers. CSOs must be vigilant and guard available spaces on the principle that “nothing about us without us”. Suggestions for increasing civil society access include lobbying for civil society representation on country delegations and prodding UN agencies to involve civil society in meetings. The need to ensure that RCEM includes unregistered and more radical civil society groups was also noted.

**On focusing RCEM:** Uchita cautioned that a mechanism seeking to do and include everything would fail. The RCEM should link up spaces and ensure the opportunity for engagement at all levels. A participant from the Pacific called for a focus on the needs and realities of Asia and the Pacific, noting that the Pacific is highly underrepresented in this region.

**On the RCEM process:** Neth noted that the RCEM builds on 20 years of policy processes and efforts and credited UNEP for taking the lead on this. Discussions for similar mechanisms are also taking place in Latin American and the Caribbean as well as Africa. She added that the starting point for this meeting was whether to create an RCEM in the first place. If so, consensus would be sought to work out the details of the new mechanism. The Interim Group



produced a concept paper on the proposed RCEM, which participants were asked to read and reflect on.

### **Views on Engaging Sustainable Development Processes**

Participants were asked to share their expectations and concerns for CSO engagement in regional sustainable development processes. Responses related to the SDGs themselves as well as to the need for greater capacity building and knowledge sharing. Participants noted their desire to see the sustainable development agenda become a transformative one, ensuring redistribution and highlighting equality, rights, and protections.

In terms of capacity building, participants were keen to build a better understanding of global processes, SDGs, and the framework of development justice. They noted a wish to keep abreast with new developments and find more opportunities to work with the right stakeholders. They called for simplified UN consultations and stressed the need to engage nationally and more comprehensively at the regional level. A key expectation relating to the engagement of civil society was that civil society's role should be more detailed and CSOs at all levels should be engaged with grassroots, regional, and global networks linked together. The need for more effective youth engagement and leadership skills was also highlighted.

Participants differed in levels of familiarity with global and regional processes, and the need to close this gap through effective knowledge sharing was noted. Veterans were expected to share their knowledge and experiences with those who were newer. CSOs also needed clear cut messages and strategies for advancing these at the UN.

### **Major Group Discussions**

Paul Quintos (IBON International) led participants through the context, objectives, and guide for discussions in their respective major groups. He noted that the enormity of sustainable development challenges today requires the mobilization of all development actors and stakeholders to ensure that post-2015 is responsive to the peoples needs and aspirations, including those left behind in the current development framework.

The objectives of these major group discussions was for participants to get to know other CSOs based in the region that belong to the same major group and discuss regional concerns and proposals for specific goals and targets for each major group. Each major group was asked to select a focal point who would join the drafting committee for the CSO Forum Declaration. Existing regional statements and major group papers from session 11 of the OWG were distributed to participants and they were asked to refer to these, especially the regional statements as OWG positions might soon change.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SHAPING POST-2015 & STATUS OF OWG**

This session comprised two presentations, the first by Uchita de Zoysa of CED, who contextualized the post-2015 development agenda and identified some key features of a transformative shift in development that better meets the sustainable development challenges of our time. The second presentation, by Ranja Sengupta of TWN, discussed the political dynamics, issues, and key fissures in the ongoing OWG negotiations. Comments from the floor followed the presentations.

### **THE WORLD AFTER CSD** **by Uchita de Zoysa, CED**

Uchita's presentation focused on the context and challenges of the current global moment and the features of a new world order. He began by describing the formation of the CSD, which had started so promisingly but was almost immediately paralyzed by a bureaucratic morass. The HLPF must not see a repeat of this, and we must take seriously this "rare opportunity to get things right from the start," in the words of GA President John Ashe.

The post-2015 landscape is one in which humans face multiple crises that will impact billions of people. Our unsustainable patterns of consumption and production threaten multiple planetary boundaries, and the demands for still more unsustainable growth further perpetuates inequality and has resulted in half the world living in poverty. These challenges are largely transboundary, and we thus need a mechanism that goes beyond the limitations of nation states and national boundaries.

We have entered a new planetary phase of civilization, marked by a global convergence of countries and people into a shared system and collective destiny. This new phase calls for a transition to sustainability and transformation in the worldviews and values behind the organizing principles of society. We need new forms of solidarity with humans and affinity with nature and a dramatic reemphasis on the idea of a decent quality of life for everyone.

The new world order must be based on the fundamental principle of equity, and all structures, arrangements, and decisions, whether economic, social, political, or technological, should observe this principle. This new world order must involve economic, social, and ecological transformations. A new economic order would stress the earth's integrity and planetary boundaries as well as equity, dignity, and justice. It would seek inclusive governance, internalize externalities through precautionary and polluter-pays principles, and move beyond the GDP to measure happiness, wellbeing, and sufficiency.

A new social order would empower each person and community to take part in decision-making affecting their lives, endorsing the principle of subsidiarity in the redesign of global governance institutions. This principle states that a matter ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest, or least centralized authority capable of addressing it effectively.

Finally, a new ecological order would emphasize everyone's wellbeing in harmony with nature. It would promote socioeconomic equity and enhance cultural, material, social, and political opportunities for all.

This new world order requires a transformation of thinking and agenda setting on development. The intergovernmental system encourages small reforms when what is needed

is far more radical. CSOs and a global people's movement must take the lead in facilitating this transformation, mindful of our vision and the features of the new world order that we want.

## **POLITICAL DYNAMICS AT OPEN WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**by Ranja Sengupta, TWN**

Ranja's presentation focused on the political dynamics and content of OWG discussions. There have been 11 OWG sessions so far, with two sessions remaining. The OWG's work will conclude in July and produce some form of outcome, which will feed into the GA negotiations in September 2014 onwards. Civil society's role in these negotiations remains unclear.

The input phase of the OWG spanned the first eight sessions of the OWG. The OWG co-chairs, Hungary and Kenya, then released a Focus Area Document with 19 focus areas identified. The document received many criticisms, namely on the lack of MOIs identified for each goal and the lack of proper focus on global systemic issues. A revised version was released in March that further clarified the focus areas and included MOIs under each goal. The ninth session onwards are focused on coming to consensus over the broad goals.

One of the major points of discussion at the OWG has been partnerships between developed and developing countries and MOI, specifically financial resources and technology transfers and related global systemic issues such as trade, intellectual property rights, and financial structures. The last two sessions of the OWG will continue this discussion.

Another major debate was on financing the development agenda. Developed countries are pushing for greater reliance on domestic resources, South-South partnerships, and private sector roles. Developing countries have been calling for structural transformation and increased policy space. Other debates that have come up during negotiations have been around CBDR, differentiation of targets and indicators for countries, the right to development, inequality, and sustainable consumption and production.

There were some key fissures between developed and developing countries at the tenth session of the OWG. Developing countries reiterated that MOI should be a standalone goal as well as included with every goal and called for the incorporation of CBDR for climate and non-climate areas of development. Developed countries opposed incorporating CBDR and MOIs under every goal. Developing countries noted that development goals should apply to all and not place a "disproportionate burden" (in Brazil's terms) on developing countries. They emphasised inequality between nations, while developed countries pushed against inequality as a standalone goal. Developed countries called for a specific goal on governance and rule of law, which was opposed by some developing countries.

Following the tenth session, a working document with specific targets (around 159 targets) was released. Here, 16 focus areas were included. Inequality was dropped as a standalone based mainly on the demands of developed countries, while some other issues were merged. For the eleventh session, developing countries have asked for informal negotiations with the full membership. This request was granted by the chairs, and informals will take place a week before each session in June and July. The OWG is now focused on producing a zero draft, which might expand to cover 18 focus areas.

Civil society participation in the OWG followed a structured major groups format, with limited time for interventions initially. CSOs were then given hour-long sessions with co-chairs. With the shorter time available from the ninth session onwards, major groups have had to make

joint statements on focused areas. Seeking consensus across the major groups has been a challenge.

From civil society's perspective, gaps in the discussions include the battle over sexual and reproductive health and rights (sexual rights is currently unrecognized) and the lack of a human rights perspective and language. There is no mention of small farmers as agents of sustainable agriculture. Both developed and developing countries generally did not call for corporate regulation. MOI and global partnerships need to be strengthened and deliver in both climate change and broader development. Finally, civil society must be included as partners and monitors.

Ranja concluded her presentation with some questions on civil society's participation in the OWG. She pointed out that there was no obligation for member states to accept any of the recommendations and inputs from CSOs. How can CSOs input into the draft formally and how do these inputs feed into the final process? She also noted the limitations of the major groups in terms of representation and asked if it could be extended to incorporate other stakeholders and regional groups. Other questions were on the process of major group leadership and how national and regional processes are feeding into the work of major groups at the global level.

## Discussion

A participant who has been engaged with sustainable development processes for many decades noted his cynicism with the process, asking if the OWG was really the most revolutionary solution for our time. The rest of the discussion focused mainly on how to ensure meaningful inclusion of civil society voices.

**On SDG indicators:** A participant asked what the SDGs would measure and if this would affect the larger goal of addressing ecological devastation and converging crises. Another suggested formulating region-specific indicators as well as nation-specific ones. Ranja added that Goal 8 of the MDGs was weak because there was little focus on a monitoring mechanism, which is why more focus is being paid now to the delivery of MOI.

**On OWG negotiators & positions:** OWG negotiators come from their respective ministries of foreign affairs and are mostly generalists who lack expertise on many issues and can be insensitive to positions taken domestically by relevant ministries. One suggestion was to focus on lobbying this ministry. Ranja stressed the importance of capturing the nuance of each government's positions so that we can be strategic or critical of these. It was also noted that not all troikas speak as one (*e.g.*, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka speak in their national capacities).

**On civil society inclusion at the UN:** A participant shared his experience attending a recent SIDS conference, where documents were only made available to government delegates while CSOs had no access to information and an odd time was chosen for civil society statements. He called for guidelines for better inclusion, participation, and access to information for civil society at the UN. Another participant called for the expansion of major groups to provide formal recognition for groups such as migrants. The closed design of the major groups mechanism was highlighted as a flaw, which the RCEM should not replicate.

**On larger movement building:** It was noted that some participants come from social movements and that lobbying strategies for negotiations should be merged with a larger

movement building strategy in order to create public pressure and be more effective in agenda setting.

## SDGS, POST-2015 & MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA PACIFIC

This session comprised presentations by Alberto Isgut of UNESCAP, who discussed regional progress on the MDGs and priorities for post-2015, and Cai Yiping of DAWN, who talked about the evolving definition of MOI and the challenges posed to development. Each presentation was followed by a brief discussion.

### **ASIA PACIFIC ASPIRATIONS: Perspectives for a Post 2015 Development Agenda by Alberto Isgut, UNESCAP**

Alberto shared some of the findings of the Regional MDGs report 2012-13 prepared by UNESCAP in collaboration with ADB and UNDP, focusing on regional trends, gaps in achieving the MDGs, and regional aspirations for the new development agenda. He underlined the importance of measurements to monitor trends and issues and lobby for progressive policymaking.

While the region has seen improvements in access to safe drinking water, declines in the incidence of communicable diseases, and improvements in gender parity and primary school enrolment, it has lagged on basic sanitation as well as maternal and child health. The region also continues to have large pockets of poverty and vulnerability. Some 743 million people in Asia and the Pacific live on less than \$1.25 per day, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the global figure. If \$2 a day is used as a benchmark, the number of poor people doubles to 1.64 billion.

If present trends continue, the region will be unable, by 2015, to ensure that all children starting primary school reach the last grade. Nor will it have halved, since 1990, the proportion of people without basic sanitation. Some sub-regions have regressed in forest cover and carbon dioxide emissions. Across the region in 2011, around three million children under five died, and nearly 20 million births were not attended by skilled health personnel. Violence against women and girls also remains endemic. These problems are greatest in Asia and the Pacific because the region has such a large population, and thus the greatest number of deprived people on most of the MDG indicators.

Key regional challenges include persistent poverty, rising inequality, insufficient numbers of decent and productive jobs, continuing hunger and food insecurity, abiding gender inequality, limited achievements in health, the spread of non-communicable diseases, low-quality education, heightened vulnerability and economic insecurity, rapid demographic change, unplanned urbanization, pressure on the environment, exposure to disasters and, above all, the rising threat of climate change.

The new development agenda must prioritize inclusive economic growth, which enables productive and decent job creation and social inclusion, to ensure equal access to opportunities and poverty reduction. Inclusive and sustainable growth also helps governments by generating additional revenues to finance other equally important development objectives.

Goal 8 of the MDGs called on the international community to forge partnerships to support the realization of these goals, but this aim was never realized. Globally, many pledges still remain unfulfilled, in particular the UN target of aid amounting to 0.7% of GNI, which never materialized, peaking only at about 0.34%. Despite having more than 60% of the world's poor, Asia and the Pacific received only 20% of average ODA flows in 2008-2011. Asia also received

the lowest aid per poor person amongst developing regions. Least developed countries in the region fared even worse. Aid is likely to fall even lower as some donor countries face economic crises. There is pressing need to increase efforts to mobilize domestic resources, find new and innovative sources of finance, including new models of partnerships to enhance development effectiveness, and improve the productive capacity of countries with special needs.

UNESCAP undertook a consultative process to prepare this report, relying on five sub-regional consultations, a questionnaire and panel of experts, and feedback from respondents to the UN MyWorld survey to get a sense of regional priorities for post-2015. Both experts and public respondents prioritized quality education, health, and access to water and sanitation. Experts also prioritized poverty eradication and responsive and accountable governance while people from both Asia and the Pacific valued affordable food and nutrition. Respondents from the Pacific prioritized environmental issues while respondents from Asia sought better jobs and governance.

Overall, there was consensus that the post-2015 agenda should drive transformative change, integrating economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental responsibility. It should be more inclusive than the MDGs, but the latter should be retained as an unfinished agenda, setting the minimum standards for development. There was also agreement that the new agenda should serve the interests of people rather than organizations and account for varied local conditions and stages of development instead of offering a single blueprint for development. Lower income countries could prioritize access to services while higher income ones focus on increasing efficiency and promoting more sustainable lifestyles.

A successor framework to the MDGs should be:

1. based on the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental;
2. underpinned by inclusive growth;
3. customized to national development needs;
4. embedded in equity;
5. backed by identified sources of finance (more fiscal sources and private flows as ODA will decline; plugging leakages and ensuring better use of funds are equally important);
6. founded on partnerships (built on shared goals with responsibilities based on capacities and complementing national action with international cooperation); and
7. monitored with robust national statistical systems

The report also identified 12 goal areas for the region, viz.:

1. Zero income poverty
2. Zero hunger and malnutrition
3. Gender equality
4. Decent jobs for all persons of working age
5. Health for all
6. Quality education for all
7. Livable cities
8. Environmental responsibility and management of natural resources
9. Disaster risk reduction
10. Improved living conditions (water, sanitation, and electricity), with a focus on the poor
11. Accountable and responsive governments
12. Stronger development partnerships



Alberto noted that two sub-regional meetings on the MDGs were coming up, in Vientiane June 24-26 and in Almaty September 9-11. Dhaka will host a meeting on financing LDCs October 28, and a regional coordination workshop to exchange views will take place on November 11-13 in Phnom Penh.

## Discussion

Questions focused on perceived gaps in UNESCAP's report and how the SDGs and post-2015 would merge into a single set of goals and the mandate for tracking progress on these goals. Asked how the new development agenda would be driven by the people, Alberto noted that this was aspirational rather than planned. A suggestion was also made for UNESCAP to measure institutional factors in achieving development goals, which they might do in the next regional economic and social survey.

**On mandate to track progress on the new development agenda:** UNESCAP has a mandate to track progress on the MDGs. A question was asked on how this mandate would evolve with the new development agenda and if there would be a shared mandate to track progress. Alberto replied that UNESCAP's mandate comes from member states and a similar mandate will likely come out of the SDGs process. He noted that there was a lot of room for partnerships between UNESCAP and civil society, and it would be a good idea to cooperate further on something as complex as tracking goals.

**On lack of reference to equality and human rights:** One participant pointed to the lack of reference to human rights and equality in UNESCAP's guiding principles for the new development agenda, noting that equity is a process of redistributive justice, while equality reflects fundamental rights. Alberto argued that equity was a broader term than equality, focusing not only on income but access to services, *etc.* Member states prefer to avoid human rights language but equity in access to services is, after all, an important aspect of human rights.

**On inequality within & between countries:** Inequality has grown in countries in the Global South, especially in BRICS countries. Participants emphasised the need to address widening and deepening inequality rather than focus on "inclusive" economic growth. The lack of focus on inequality between countries in the report was also noted, and a participant pointed out that environmental degradation reflected inequality between countries. Alberto agreed that inequality has skyrocketed in the region in the past two decades and indicated that there was growing consensus that this should be tackled although it was still unclear if they would in fact be addressed. He added that while the gap between rich and poor countries remains large, poorer countries are growing at a much faster rate than richer ones.

**On merging of post-2015 & SDGs:** While last year's Secretary General's report on post-2015 stated that the SDGs and post-2015 will merge, it remains unclear how that will happen. These terms have come to be used interchangeably, and the expectation is that they will merge at the GA negotiations starting in September. TWN is critical of the merging, noting that a single set of goals can be reductionist and minimalistic. There is a need for a broader development agenda, with more policy space and access to resources for countries.

## SDGs, POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC

by Cai Yiping, DAWN



Yiping's presentation explained the concept of MOI, traced its evolution from the MDGs to Rio+20 to current OWG negotiations, and identified both challenges and recommendations to a robust definition and operation of this concept. MOI refers to the mix of financial resources, technological development and transfers, as well as capacity building that must be supported by actions from developed countries at the international level, with time-bound financing targets, associated trade and economic policies, technology transfers, and other resources to assist and enable efforts by developing countries.

Rio+20 reaffirmed that MOIs were “indispensable for achieving the full and effective translation of sustainable development commitments into tangible sustainable development outcomes.” It also reiterated each country's primary responsibility for its development while reaffirming developing countries' need for additional resources for sustainable development. It called for the mobilization of funds from various sources, effective use of funds, and good governance and the rule of law at national and international levels.

The OWG discussion on MOI has centred on four areas: finance, technology, capacity building, and trade. This discussion has been one of the most contentious, especially in relation to technology transfer and trade. The current session has seen a change in title, from MOI to MOI/Global partnership for sustainable development. Here, MOI has been defined in terms of operational issues like finance, trade, and technology, while the Global Partnership for Development is defined primarily as a process of engaging stakeholders and of reporting progress, contrary to the framing in MDG8 that has been globally accepted and practised.

Challenges to MOI include the unfulfilled commitments of MDG8, lack of a well-defined accountability mechanism, and overemphasis on domestic resource mobilization. The private sector is playing a significantly larger role in financing sustainable development and is now considered a critical and primary partner in development. Innovative and voluntary financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships are being pushed, while language on financial regulations of the private sector remains weak.

The following recommendations should be put forward to ensure that MOI is a key part of the new development agenda:

1. There should be a standalone goal on MOI as well as specific MOIs with each goal.
2. MOIs must address both the mobilization of financial resources and technology, and the international architecture, namely the global trade and financial framework, that determines the ability of states to use those resources for sustainable development.
3. New sources of financing such as public-private partnerships and South-South cooperation must be recognized as complementing and not substituting traditional MOI, and the public sector must be at the centre of sustainable development financing. (Public sources of financing ensures public control over agenda of service provision and prioritization.)
4. Corporate accountability should be strengthened and monitoring and measurements improved. New partnerships should involve a new accountability framework.
5. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should apply to MOI as a whole, and not just in relation to climate policy. States' obligations should be commensurate with their stages of development.

Yiping ended by referring participants to documents from OWG11 and the NGLS regional consultation report for concrete proposals on MOI.

## Discussion

Discussions focused on various challenges to traditional MOI, namely unregulated private sector involvement, reliance on remittances, de-emphasis on international resourcing, and inequitable trade rules. The importance of the concept of CBDR was underlined, with one participant calling for CBDR to be specified in the civil society declaration and another noting that rules on trade and so on should be differentiated based on levels of development. It was also noted that many of the terms used now include mechanisms that we would support as well as those we would oppose. Yiping stressed the importance of unpacking, specifying, and problematizing terms such as “innovative financing”, “open rules based trade”, etc.

**On the gender dimension:** Women and gender tend to get left out of economic discussions, despite links between economic trends and increased violence. Poverty reduction strategies employ concepts such as “head of household” that perpetuate women’s lack of access to resources.

**On the private sector’s role in development:** The private sector is playing a major role in development financing, with private firms everywhere in the field. Heavy reliance on the private sector has already led to weak language on private sector regulation. As a participant noted, the push for “innovation” and deregulation led to the recent crisis in the financial industry. The private sector wants to finance development for the cause of private profit. It should be made to pay taxes instead.

**On remittances as a source of financing:** One of the rationales for promoting labour export is that remittances constitute the second largest source of development funding after ODA. However, migrant labour seldom involves decent working and living conditions. The myth of migration for development should be challenged and migrant labour seen as a problem of under-development rather than a pro-development solution. This is a particularly pertinent issue for the region.

**On domestic vs. international resourcing:** A UNESCAP officer cautioned that mobilizing domestic resources through *e.g.*, environmental tax reforms and transformation of financial and budgetary systems is key for development. Another participant responded that the assumption has always been that development would be domestically resourced first. However, developed countries should share technologies and take responsibility for historic exploitations.

## CIVIL SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Representatives of four key groups (women, indigenous peoples, farmers, and migrants) were invited to present their thoughts and recommendations on resources and partnerships needed to promote and attain sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Marjorie Pamintuan of APRN facilitated this session, which was followed by an interactive discussion on the floor.

### **Recommendation from Women's Groups on Means of Implementation by Nurgul Djanaeva, Forum for Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan**

Nurgul stated that women's groups were ready to set recommendations for sustainable development. On MOI, women's groups are calling for seven targets covering partnerships, capacity building, accountability, technology transfer, financing, monitoring, and a country results framework.

Under partnerships, women's groups call for full participation and leadership of women and girls and an enabling environment for women's rights organizations, while cautioning against a reliance on public-private partnerships, which would lead to the non-accessibility and non-affordability of basic services. Recommendations under capacity building include high quality, disaggregated data collection and analysis as well as the incorporation of gender equality and women's rights in various capacity building and development programmes. The issue of ensuring sufficient focus on gender equality in development was noted.

Few countries have periodic multi-stakeholder accountability mechanisms, and this should be a priority. There should also be an accountability framework at national, regional, and global levels. All processes of technology transfer should include poor, rural, indigenous, and marginalized women.

Recommendations under financing included a call for gender budgeting, while monitoring should include proper indicators on women's rights and gender equality and their integration into all development priority areas. Statistical data should also be made available on these indicators. Finally, all countries should have in place a development results framework with a clear formulation of national results on women's rights and gender equality.

### **Recommendation by Indigenous Peoples' Group on Means of Implementation by Sui Khar, Asian Indigenous People's Pact**

Sui Khar noted the need to ensure full and effective participation in decision making for all, and called on the UN and other international agencies to abide by the principle of free, prior, and informed consent and to ensure this principle is reflected in all processes. The participation of indigenous peoples in particular is important because they have long been excluded.

The SDGs should take an overarching focus on poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, and the protection of biodiversity. Access to and control over land is crucial to the survival of indigenous peoples and should be highlighted. Indigenous people's contribution to climate change management should also be recognized in the SDGs. There should be policy support, with integrated programmes and robust indicators to enable indigenous peoples to contribute to achieving sustainable development. There should be an emphasis on data collection and use in formulating strategies and recommendations.

## **Recommendation by Farmers' Group on Means of Implementation** **by Wali Haider, Roots for Equity**

Wali pointed out that MOI was essentially a question of political will to implement development goals. The current world is one rife with poverty, hunger, and vulnerability. Out of nearly one billion hungry people, 578 million belong to Asia and the Pacific. Asia alone houses 70% of the world's rural, most marginalized, and vulnerable people. Rural peoples, a great number of whom are women, remain the most vulnerable to food crises, attacks on land, water, forests, and seed rights, various forms of development aggression, as well as the climate crisis. Trade liberalization and industrial agriculture have contributed to this poverty and food insecurity by destroying local food production systems, pushing small holders into unemployment and debt, and pushing harmful agrochemicals, pesticides, and GMOs. Intense, high-tech modes of agriculture are also partly responsible for the climate crisis.

To transform this picture, MOI must include a repeal of trade agreements that restrict the ability of developing countries to pursue national economic and social development and subject trade policies to public deliberation and debate. There should be due recognition of unequal relations between countries and institutions and support for the negotiation capacity and resources of developing countries. A financial transactions tax (which would cover currency transactions, bonds, equities, and derivatives) should be introduced, and the funds channelled to developing countries. Finally, competition and antitrust policies should be reformed to limit the power of transnational corporations and banks.

Technology transfer is an important part of MOI as it gives genuine equal ground to farmers. It should involve the promotion of ecological agriculture to guarantee food sovereignty and prevent hunger and its consequences. Seed breeding centres should be created to protect and promote indigenous seeds that are adaptable to local climates. Intellectual property rights should promote creative thinking and invention, not the monopolization of a few powerful corporations over the democratic majority. Finally, it should complement rather than hinder sustainable development.

Wali noted that MDG8 hardly recognized let alone incorporated the role of civil society, focusing instead on multilateral agencies and large multinational corporations. Partnerships should include national governments and other public institutions, non-state actors and especially CSOs that amplify the voices of the marginalized, as well as citizens themselves. The key concept here is genuine inclusivity, with all actors and stakeholders working together to achieve a new development agenda and ensure democratic ownership of development. We should look into enabling the participation of small CSOs, unregistered groups, and grassroots movements to ensure diverse stakeholders are represented.

## **Recommendation by Migrants' Group on Means of Implementations** **by Aaron Ceradoy, International Migrants Alliance**

Aaron noted that the links between migration and sustainable development have not been fully explored as yet and expressed deep concern about debates premised on failed models of development. While there have been some discussions at the UN on migration and development in recent years, starting with the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2007, these have focused mainly on remittances for development and increasing social capital and credit status. This points to a flawed framework of migration for development, impinging on the human dignity of migrants. This "pragmatic" view takes migrant labour for granted instead of seeking to address its underlying conditions.

Migration should not be seen as the exercise of one's right to seek employment but a measure of underdevelopment, with particular social, political, and historical factors. In Asia and the Pacific, migration is both regular and largely temporary. Major migration corridors include China-Hong Kong and India-Bangladesh. Asia also hosts the largest number of refugees, and nine of every ten refugees are in the Global South.

In receiving countries in the region, migration is considered under citizenship and national security frameworks. Most migrants are unable to bring their families along or seek citizenship. They are vulnerable to abuse, and those working in domestic and agricultural sectors as well as undocumented migrants experience some of the most extreme working conditions. Migrant labour also builds on labour flexibilization, the erosion of labour rights, and diminishing social protections. Agencies that recruit migrant labour are largely unregulated. Countries with the highest remittances and populations abroad also have some of the lowest development levels.

Aaron called for a framework that allows migration to be a choice without the commodification of migrants for development. This framework should address fundamental imbalances between and within countries and inequalities between women and men. Noting that migrants in the region tend to be excluded from national consultations and trade unions, he recommended the formation of a migrants major group. He ended by quoting an Indonesian migrant worker who faced abusive conditions, "The justice I want is for other migrants like me not to go through what I did." The new development agenda should put an end to this exploitation of poor people.

## Discussion

Discussions largely focused on concerns about the problematic framing of migration and private sector-led partnerships, as well as the lack of focus on the gender dimension of access to land and resources.

**On migration:** The MDGs were silent on migration and the right to mobility, and this should be rectified in the post-2015 agenda. A participant noted that migration impacts children's rights and opportunities, as children born to undocumented workers are uncouned, denied access to education and healthcare, and forced into child labour. Aaron acknowledged that skilled migration and human resource trade are also part of the reality of migrant work, although the trends and statistics here are unclear. At the same time, he added that migrant work in the region tends to be in factories, fields, and domestic or entertainment sectors and one impact is the deskilling of migrants, who tend to be skilled and semi-skilled workers.

**On remittances:** One participant suggested using the focus on remittances as an advocacy point in calling for political voice for migrants. Aaron responded that remittances go to households rather than government budgets, and the real contribution of remittances on development is the impact on a country's GDP, which in turn affects its credit rating. Remittances also lead to social capital for the families of migrants. A participant from Consumers International cited a study they did on remittances, which found that agencies behind these money transfers charge exorbitant rates for their services.

**On HIV & key populations:** One participant called for focus on HIV reduction targets and key populations impacted by HIV, such as drug users, men who have sex with men, transgenders, and sex workers. These groups tend to be invisible, and civil society must work to end

discriminatory laws and policies against them and the growing backlash from religious fundamentalists. UNDP and UNESCAP would convene a regional meeting on this issue in August.

**On farming:** A participant cautioned against suggesting that the private sector pay taxes to fund development by sharing how food insecurity in Bangladesh has been exacerbated by the use of land for tobacco production. Because British American Tobacco pays high taxes, the government is loath to challenge this. Corporations may demand their “rights” as taxpayers to push policies that harm the public interest. Wali noted the irony of public-private partnerships being promoted as a solution to food insecurity caused in the first place by the private sector’s land and resource grabbing.

**On challenges experienced by fisherfolk:** Climate change and the corporatization of ocean fishing are huge challenges to small fisherfolk, making going out to sea increasingly difficult and dangerous for smaller and smaller catches.

**On women’s access to land:** One participant pointed to the need to focus on women’s land rights, noting that women make up the largest number of agriculture workers and food producers. She promised to share Shirkat Gah’s study of the issue in Pakistan and an Indian report on land distribution to women.

**On concrete measures to address gender inequality:** A question was asked on addressing gender inequality and women’s subordination not only through prescriptions but through concrete measures. Nurgul noted that annual reporting on the gender dimensions and impact in various issues and a comprehensive national results framework would go a long way, and she would share more details and concrete suggestions. At present there are few mechanisms dealing with gender and development and few women in councils addressing development issues. Wali added that for countries like Pakistan where patriarchy is deeply entrenched, women’s meaningful participation cannot be achieved without challenging patriarchy and working to dismantle it.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES & CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSES

This session began with an overview of recent regional civil society statements relating to sustainable development and the post-2015 agenda. Participants were then invited to join one of three thematic group discussions to identify key issues and challenges to sustainable development as well as specific initiatives and recommendations to address these. They were encouraged to build on previous recommendations and key messages. This was followed by an interactive discussion to identify regional priorities and formulate specific recommendations for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

### Overview of Asia-Pacific Civil Society Statements on Sustainable Development by Paul Quintos, IBON International

Paul gave an overview of messages and recommendations in several recent regional civil society statements relating to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>1</sup> He noted that these statements are not exhaustive and exclude statements and recommendations coming out of sub-regional and national processes. These statements provide concrete recommendations and progressive framings and analyses and are worth reading in full.

These statements cover the economic, social, and ecological dimensions of sustainable development, interlinking the three dimensions, and also emphasize the element of governance.

Framing messages focus on the need to summon the political will for radical transformation, instead of mere reforms within the existing system of financial, corporate, and nation-state control. They offer a critique of neoliberal globalization and free market policies that disproportionately benefit corporations and elites but fail to promote equitable and inclusive growth. They advance a vision of development justice, calling for the post-2015 framework to acknowledge and address inequalities in power, wealth, and resources between and within countries and between women and men, to consider intergenerational responsibilities, and to reorient development to a holistic focus on people's wellbeing and realization of their human rights.

Recommendations relating to the economic dimension include wealth redistribution between and within countries and reform of international rules on trade, finance, technology, and intellectual property rights. The statements also proposed prioritizing the real economy over the financial economy and reaffirming the public sector's role over the private sector. Finally, they called for equitable access and control over resources and sustainable livelihoods.

Under the social dimension, the focus was on providing all persons with basic entitlements, such as health, education, water, and sanitation. Proposals included instituting universal social protection, ending discrimination, ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment, guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights, empowering young

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<sup>1</sup> These statements are the Kathmandu Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting (22-23 November 2012), Asia-Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting (Phnom Penh, 17-18 September 2013), Bangkok Civil Society Declaration: From Inclusive to Just Development (24 August 2013), UN-NGLS Post-2015 Civil Society Consultation Asia-Pacific Regional Report (22 September 2013), and Civil Society Perspectives for a Commonwealth Post-2015 Development Agenda (10-14 November 2013).



persons, and protecting the rights of migrants, refugees, and indigenous peoples. Culture was also upheld as another pillar of sustainable development.

Recommendations under the ecological dimension called for an ecosystems approach to development and community-based territorial stewardship of natural resources. The statements urged the greening of fiscal policies and the rejection of financialization and commodification of nature. They called for urgent action on climate change, loss of biodiversity, and degradation of ecosystems. Other recommendations include the regulation of the extractive sector and fossil fuel industry, the promotion of sustainable consumption and production, ecological agriculture, and the reduction and safe disposal of waste.

Cross-cutting recommendations called for rights-based policies on development, a holistic approach to development that goes beyond focus on the GDP, and ensuring food sovereignty.

Finally, governance recommendations include linking development policies to human rights accountability mechanisms, strengthening corporate accountability, and ensuring civil society participation in governance, including by institutionalizing the role of civil society in monitoring progress on post-2015 goals. Holistic and multidimensional tools and mechanisms should be adopted for measuring progress on sustainable development. This includes new metrics that emphasize the quality dimensions of development and ensure disaggregation to better capture inequalities in progress on development.

Paul ended by echoing a participant's call to focus on value-added, cutting edge elements that are specific to this region and formulated in concrete terms in the breakout groups.

### **Thematic Group Discussions**

Participants were invited to join one of three thematic group discussions: (i) shared planetary boundaries, (ii) integration and transformation, and (iii) governance, peace, stability, and the rule of law. Each group was asked to elect a rapporteur to join the drafting committee for the CSO Forum Declaration. With the assistance of resource persons, the groups identified key issues and challenges in the region relating to their theme, specific regional initiatives addressing these challenges, and financial, technological, and capacity building resources and partnerships required to address them. Following the group discussions, participants came back to plenary and each group presented a summary of their responses.

#### **Group 1: Shared prosperity within planetary boundaries**

Group 1 proposed a framing of prosperity through redistributive justice, not increasing growth. It was noted that countries which have met poverty reduction targets have done so in resource intensive ways, through more growth rather than more equal distribution. The concept of shared prosperity must be unpacked to capture this element of redistributive justice, where inequalities are addressed and greed capped.

Shared prosperity means shared responsibility and accountability. Leaving no one behind also means letting no one get away. It means spending on universalizing access to basic services not on increasing military budgets. We need a new economic model that encourages shared responsibility.

Group 1 called for different measures of prosperity and poverty that recognize the element of social justice in how we consume and produce and distribute wealth and that redefine what it



means to live well. They noted the need to consider power relations and bring in a rights perspective to the discussion. Finally, the concept of CBDR should be put forward in these discussions.

Civil society has a lot of experience and expertise in mobilization and service delivery, *etc.* that governments should tap on. CSOs play multiple roles in development and should be seen as equal stakeholders. We must push for recognition of CSOs as resources and stakeholders, not only observers.

## **Group 2: Integration and transformation for sustainable development**

In defining the transformation sought, Group 2 referred to the Bangkok Civil Society Declaration 2013, which identified five elements of development justice, including redistributive, ecological, economic, and social justice. Based on this framing, they identified some of the key issues that must be addressed in a transformative agenda for Asia and the Pacific. These issues include sustainable agriculture and its interlinkages with migration, health, *etc.*, urbanization, migration and displacement due to climate change and lack of opportunities, and sustainable industrialization, labour rights, and working conditions. A transformative agenda must also address inequalities, regulate transnational corporations, challenge neoliberal policies, guarantee land rights, especially for women, and protect human rights and dignity for all.

Group 2 noted that, going forward, governments and various institutions, including the UN, cannot shy away from important issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights. Funding mechanisms and partnerships between governments and civil society must be transformed, and unequal development addressed.

## **Group 3: Governance, peace, stability, and the rule of law**

Group 3 discussed the importance of the rule of law to create peaceful and stable societies and ensure civil society participation. The rule of law is a condition for peace and sustainable development and requires governments to be accountable for their governance. It checks discrimination and conflict. Laws created through democratic means with appropriate checks and balances facilitate sustainable development.

Recommendations made include upscaling good practices and giving responsibility of these to local communities rather than NGOs in order to ensure ownership and continuity. A platform that allows for CSOs and governments to gather and share experiences and strategies should be created.

In terms of the post-2015 agenda, Group 3 indicated that target setting should be country and issue specific, taking into account a lesson learned from the MDGs. Mechanisms for accountability, such as CEDAW alternative reporting, should be strengthened. There should be a standardization of agreements on migrations, with contracts between recipient and source countries. There should also be institutionalized means to tackle various other transboundary issues, such as water sources.

## **Interactive Discussion**

This discussion focused on the HLPF and civil society engagement, proposing institutionalized spaces and structures that accommodate meaningful participation at every level and calling

on civil society to build relationships with governments on the basis of mutual trust, build political leverage through continued mobilization at the grassroots, and document good practices and impact to demonstrate our strengths and contributions. Expectations of the HLPF include that it ensure policy coherence and includes strong accountability and peer-review mechanisms.

The HLPF is responsible for ensuring policy coherence and consistency across the UN system and international governance institutions. It should be explicitly tasked with using a human rights framework and ensuring consistency with human rights instruments and mechanisms. It should not be a talkshop but be effective in catalysing transformations towards sustainability. Evidence-based discussions and analyses of good practices will help ensure a platform for practical solutions towards sustainability.

Participants agreed on the need for a strong peer review mechanism at the regional level. It was also important to think about how this would ensure accountability at the global level. The most comprehensive peer review mechanism in the UN system now is the UN Convention against Corruption, to which 167 countries have signed on and are assessed by 1,400 civil society representatives and anti-corruption experts. There was also a suggestion made for special rapporteur functions that governments are somewhat familiar and comfortable with.

In terms of UNESCAP's role, participants suggested that it serve as a conduit of information between governments and civil society, playing a greater role in data collection, including of micro-level and qualitative data. This information could be provided to governments so that their decisions are more evidence-based. UNESCAP could also ensure all relevant stakeholders, including those not well represented at this consultation, are engaged in the different processes.

Participants discussed civil society engagement in sustainable development and the HLPF at length, noting shared concerns about ensuring and institutionalizing meaningful participation. Several suggestions were made, such as lobbying for each national delegation to include civil society and youth representation and institutionalizing major group participation at the regional level. It was noted that civil society representatives on government delegations are likely to be pro-government extras, so there was still a need to focus on institutionalizing the participation of independent civil society actors. Small grassroots communities also tend to be left out of consultations and their participation should be ensured. It was noted that good practices for civil society engagement already exist, *e.g.*, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and the coordinating board of UNAIDS. Governments should also be reminded of their pledge to enable CSO participation at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

A UNEP officer noted that the UN is beholden to governments and cannot make unilateral decisions on civil society participation. CSOs should work with their governments to change their mindsets and transform them into allies. A participant from the Pacific Youth Council, which works with Pacific governments, noted that they were able to cooperate with governments and develop strategies towards greater transparency. Another participant indicated that India was also good about consulting with civil society and including them in planning processes. Civil society engagement in regional bodies (ASEAN, SAARC) has proven to be more of a challenge. A suggestion was made to continue engaging governments and to document the pooled work and impact civil society has had and use this as a basis for demanding a seat at the table.

In closing, a UNESCAP officer advised participants to refer to functions of the HLPF agreed to by governments and to strongly communicate ideas and recommendations in order to ensure a strong, functioning HLPF that does not merely repeat tired practices. She added that civil society has a presence and CSOs can demand more on the basis that they have something substantive to contribute.

## CREATION OF A REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT TRANSITION MECHANISM

The final session of this consultation included a presentation on the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for UN entities and partners. The RCM demonstrates the need for a mechanism by which civil society can engage the UN system in a coordinated and coherent manner. Participants were then invited to share their thoughts and questions on the proposed RCEM based on the concept paper prepared by the Interim Group. Thereafter participants broke into three discussion groups to identify key features of the new RCEM. Participants then returned to plenary to share their proposals and adopt a new transition mechanism that would replace the Interim Group.

### Presentation by Jan Smit, UNESCAP

Jan introduced the RCM, which was mandated through ECOSOC in 1998 to improve coordination between different UN entities working at the regional level, to ensure coherence, leveraging synergies, and avoiding overlap. Each region has an RCM. The Deputy Secretary-General is the formal chair while informal sessions are chaired by the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP.

The RCM comprises 30 UN entities active in the region and eight that are not formal UN entities but linked to UN processes (such as IOM). The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are also part of RCM.

At the executive level, the main issue over the past two years has been the follow up to Rio+20 and associated processes. Other recent areas of focus have been UN system harmonization and cooperation with ASEAN. Apart from executive level meetings, thematic working groups meet to coordinate and collaborate on specific areas of work, *e.g.*, education, environment, disaster risk management, poverty and hunger, trafficking and migration, gender equality, and young people's issues.

UNESCAP's new Executive Secretary is keen on determining to what extent the RCM needs to be repositioned to derive more value, and RCM members will discuss this at a retreat in August. The future of the RCM is thus currently in flux. Future updates can be found at the RCM website: [rcmasiapacific.un.org](http://rcmasiapacific.un.org).

It was noted that as the RCM is currently re-evaluating its direction, this would be an opportune moment for civil society to give comments and concrete suggestions. One participant suggested that RCM members look into harmonizing their different mechanisms and systems for engaging civil society.

It was also clarified that the RCM does not engage directly with countries. The regional UN Development Group supports country teams and has its own RCM as well.

### Open Dialogue on Creation of RCEM

Participants then engaged in an open dialogue to share some initial thoughts and questions on the creation and key features of the proposed RCEM, based on the concept paper prepared by the Interim Group. They were asked to think about whether they supported such a mechanism, and if so, the levels of mandate and modalities for ensuring representation, quality engagement, and consensus building as well as roles and responsibilities.

Discussions largely focused on the RCEM membership, with recommendations that members be representative of diverse sub-regions and interests within Asia and the Pacific and that individual members represent the greater interests beyond that of their organizations. At the same time, several participants advised against having the RCEM seek to represent everyone as it should be a substantive resource rather than a representative political grouping. The important thing is to ensure good criteria for selecting members and prevent the privileging of any one group over another. One suggestion was to have regional organizations as members of the RCEM, as these organizations have the regional breadth and representation as well as administrative capacity to make substantial contributions to the mechanism's work. Another recommendation made was to create a national process, engaging relevant national mechanisms, to build capacity and engage civil society at the national level.

Several participants noted the imbalanced representation at this consultation, and the Interim Group acknowledged it as a shortcoming, citing issues in terms of funding and logistics as well as the need to better map relevant civil society stakeholders in the region. There was some discussion on how to ensure this mechanism creates a more enabling environment for grassroots groups and those who do not consistently engage the UN. Language was identified as a challenge, and the RCEM would need to focus on ensuring inclusive communications.

Participants agreed on the need for some members of the Interim Group to join the transition mechanism in order to ensure continuity in terms of work and thinking around the proposed mechanism. Members of the transition mechanism should seek clarity on shared visions and build familiarity as well as tools for information sharing and decision-making.

Finally, the function of the RCEM as a convergence platform for civil society to work with the UN was clarified. The RCEM would not be a committee that provides input on documents or engages civil society at national and sub-regional levels.

## **Breakout Groups**

Participants broke into three groups to discuss and make suggestions on various aspects and features of the proposed RCEM. Group 1 was asked to focus on the RCEM's characteristics, identifying its key objective and features and the different roles that stakeholders can play in partnerships for sustainable development. They were also asked to consider how the RCEM can scale up regional positions globally.

Group 2 focused on the RCEM's structure and were asked to identify the main representative categories and ways of integrating the major groups and stakeholders recognized by the UN. They were also tasked with identifying emerging and marginalized groups in UN processes as well as knowledge providers.

Group 3 looked into the RCEM's process, specifically outreach mechanisms and ways to engage all relevant and interested constituencies and source knowledge input into sustainable development processes.

Following the group discussions, participants came back to plenary and each group presented a summary of their responses.

### **Group 1: Characteristics of the RCEM**

Group 1 stressed that the RCEM is of, by, and for civil society rather than the UN. It should serve as a resource for both and must focus on building bridges between national, regional, and global processes. It should also be thematic.

The RCEM should be open, inclusive, flexible, professional, and intergenerational. It should facilitate mutual learning and facilitate links between what is happening in the region and what is determined and discussed at the HLPF. It should keep up with current as well as emerging issues in the region.

The RCEM's task would be to ensure regional civil society presence in UN processes and major groups as well as to keep civil society abreast on meetings, updates, and events in the UN system. The RCEM should also be visible so that others can identify and approach it.

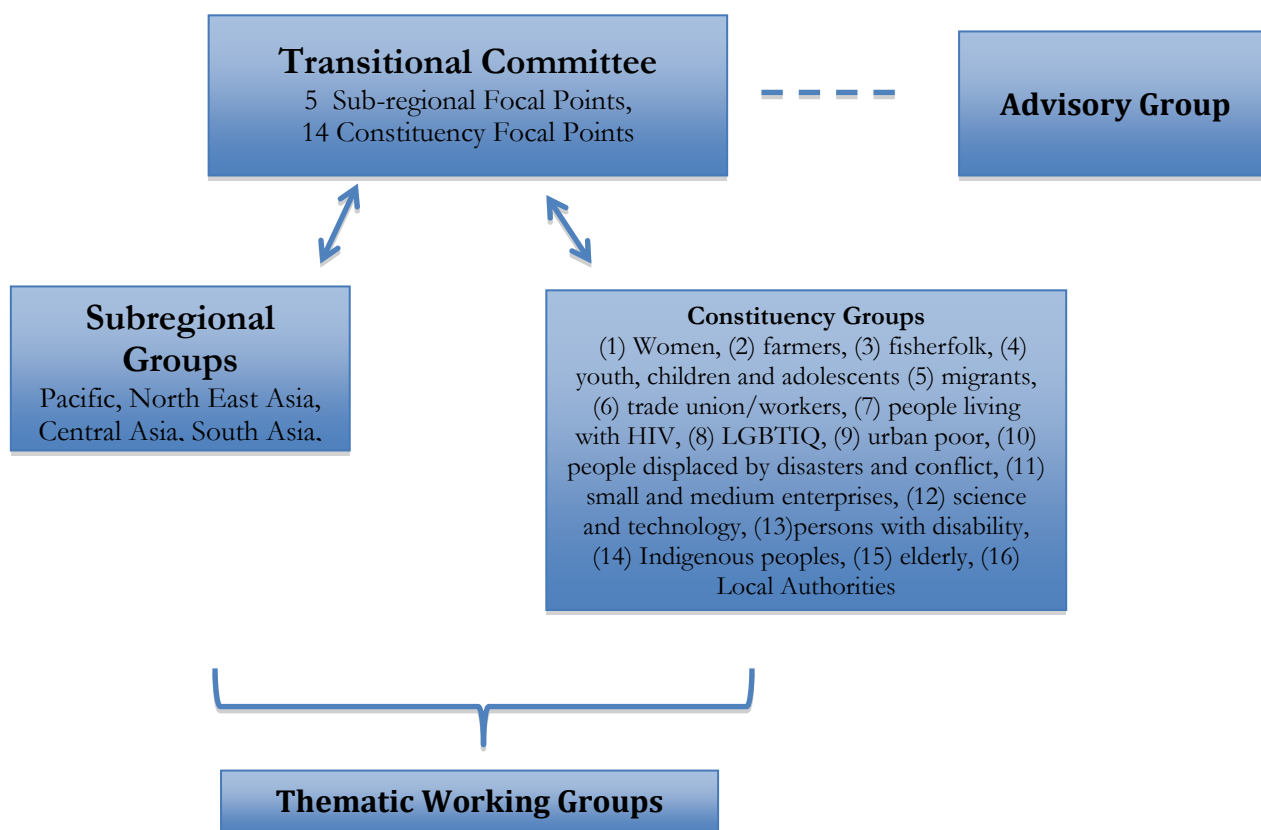
## **Group 2: Structure of the RCEM**

Group 2 proposed a structure that would comprise an advisory group as well as a coordinating committee. The latter would comprise both thematic and sub-regional representation, with one focal person for each of the following constituencies: women, indigenous peoples, farmers and fisherfolks (*a.k.a.* stewards of land and sea), children and young people, local authorities, LGBTIQ, PLWH, urban poor, migrants and displaced people and refugees, elderly people, workers and trade unions, small businesses, science and technology, academia, people affected by conflict, and other marginalized groups. There would also be a focal point for the following sub-regions: Central Asia, East Asia, Pacific, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

There was some contention on whether local authorities should include parliamentarians, as parliamentarians are state actors and power holders and their inclusion would introduce partisan politics. Parliamentarians also have access to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and many other avenues to get involved in these processes. Others argued that parliamentarians who are proven advocates on issues should be seen as watchdogs at the level of national policymaking and engaged with as much as possible. Their inclusion would be an opportunity to encourage them to learn from and cooperate with civil society on sustainable development issues. It was noted that civil society and the RCEM would not be able to ensure that parliamentarians share a common stand with civil society. A counter suggestion was to hold regular meetings with parliamentarians and institutionalize engagement with them without including them in the RCEM structure. As time was short, participants agreed to park this issue for more debate.

A question was asked on the need to name various communities, as that might result in further invisibilizing other groups. Participants also noted the need to avoid overrepresentation of any one country or sub-region within the RCEM.

There was also a discussion on defining experts, with several participants noting that grassroots practitioners and community-based organizations are resource and knowledge providers too. The transition mechanism should set up a process to determine knowledge providers. Membership criteria and accountability processes also need to be set.



### Group 3: Process of the RCEM

Group 3 identified several outreach mechanisms to be adopted by the RCEM, including a general communications plan, media and new media strategy, and a two-way channel to ensure feedback between national and regional levels. In terms of further movement building, existing CSO networks should be tapped and mobilization expanded beyond at the local and national levels. Resource kits should be translated into local vernaculars so that information is accessible to those at the grassroots.

Some suggestions for how to engage relevant and interested constituencies include setting criteria for memberships and a screening process to ensure that members are genuine CSOs. Priorities of CSOs should be mapped, and we should strive to maintain a progressive stance and transformative agenda. RCEM representation should be small but its reach should be wide.

On gathering knowledge input for sustainable development, Group 3 recommended that the RCEM reach out to marginalized groups and seek to bring marginal and grassroots perspectives from local to global levels. The RCEM should also seek increased participation from Central Asia and the Pacific. Finally, it should create knowledge sharing platforms with parallel campaigns.

### Convergence Session: Agreements on Proposed Transition Mechanism

The Interim Group thanked participants for their feedback and recommendations, which would inform discussions during the incubation period. The Interim Group itself would come

to a close at this meeting, and a transition mechanism would take over. The RCEM proposal would evolve at APFSD meetings each year.

The transition mechanism was mandated by consensus from participants. There was consensus that two to three members of the Interim Group should continue in the transition mechanism. Participants also agreed to provisionally select members of the transitional mechanism according to constituency and reconfirm this by June 16. Groups that were unprepared or lacked a mandate to make this selection were asked to follow up. The transition mechanism would also be responsible for seeking a wider mandate.

## Provisional membership of the transitional mechanism

### Transition Committee

Constituency Focal Points		
1	<b>Wardarina</b> , Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Women
2	<b>Wali Heider</b> , Roots for Equity, Pakistan	Farmers
3	<b>Paul Quintos</b> , Ibon International	NGO
4	<b>Anusha Kumari</b> , SLITU, Sri Lanka	Trade Union & Workers
5	<b>Frances Quimpo</b> , Center for Environmental Concern/CEC <b>Masanori Kobayashi</b> , Ocean Policy Research Foundation	Scientific and Technology
6	<b>Bernice See</b> , Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact/AIPP,	Indigenous Peoples
7	<b>Emani Kumar</b> , ICLEI	Local Authorities
8	<b>Kabita Gautam</b> , BYND2015 Nepal Hub	Youth, Children & Adolescent
9	<b>Gomer Padong</b> , Philippine Social Enterprise Network,	Small Medium Enterprise
10	<b>Lani Eugania</b> , PUANTANI, Indonesia	Fisherfolks
11	<b>Aron Ceradoy</b> , Asia Pacific Mission on Migrant	Migrants
12	<b>Maria Lourdes Marin</b> , Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS,	People Living with HIV
13	<b>Helen Hakena</b> , Leitana Nehan Women Development Agency, Papua New Guinea	People in Conflict and Disaster Area
14	<b>Rudolf Bastian Tampubolon</b> , GCAP SENCAP	LGBTIQ
Sub-Region Focal Point		
1	<b>Ranja Sengupta</b> , Third World Network	South Asia
2	<b>Ahmad Syamsul Hadi</b> , WALHI, Indonesia	Southeast Asia
3	<b>Cai Yi Ping</b> , DAWN, China	East Asia
4	<b>Nurgul Djanaeva</b> , Forum of Women's NGO of Kyrgyzstan	Central Asia



5	<b>Alaipuke Esau</b> , Pacific Youth Council	Pacific
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#### **Advisory Group**

1.	<b>Elenita Dano</b> , Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC) Group
2.	<b>Uchita de Zoysa</b> , Center for Environment and Development (CED)
3.	<b>Marjorie Pamintuan</b> , Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)
4.	<b>Yoke Ling Chee</b> , Third World Network (TWN)
5.	<b>Meena Bilgi</b> , Women Organising for Change in Agriculture (WOCAN)
6	<b>Simon Olsen</b> , Institute for Global Environment Strategies, (IGES)
7.	<b>Isagani R. Serrano</b> , Social Watch Philippines/Philippines Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
8.	<b>Karin Fernando</b> , Center for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)

Among the more immediate tasks for the new transitional mechanism are selecting a coordinator and guiding APFSD engagement on the RCEM. The new group must also draft its terms of reference and conduct outreach in order to affirm its mandate and disseminate the outcome of this consultation.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a regional civil society declaration on “Advancing the agenda for development justice” to be read at the APFSD and a logistics briefing for participants attending the APFSD. Please see Annex 1 for the full text of the declaration.

## ANNEX 1: CIVIL SOCIETY APFSD DECLARATION

### ANNEX 1: CIVIL SOCIETY APFSD DECLARATION

(long version)

#### **Advancing People's Agenda for Development Justice**

Civil society groups from Asia and the Pacific met in Bangkok from May 15-17, 2014 to develop regional recommendations on just and sustainable development for action at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. We reaffirm prior regional civil society statements and declarations including the Kathmandu Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting (22-23 November 2012); Asia-Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting, Phnom Penh (17-18 September 2013); Bangkok Civil Society Declaration: From Inclusive to Just Development (24 August 2013); and Civil Society Perspectives for a Commonwealth Post-2015 Development Agenda (10-14 November 2013) and civil society recommendations in the UN-NGLS Post-2015 Civil Society Consultation Asia-Pacific Regional Report (22 September 2013)

The Asia Pacific region has seen rapid growth and significant improvements in the lives of millions of people over the last decades but grave challenges remain. The region still has the largest concentration of people without adequate food, income and employment. Inequalities in the distribution of wealth, power and resources between and within countries, and among rich and poor, men and women, and social groups, are growing and undermining wellbeing for the majority of the population. Environmental conditions are deteriorating rapidly especially in ecologically sensitive areas such as oceans, forests and mountain regions. Climate change is endangering the lives and futures of entire populations, particularly in the Pacific islands. All of these challenges are threatening the livelihoods of many, including small farmers and fishers, and driving migration on an unprecedented scale.

Women, migrants and young people in particular are trapped in vulnerable situations and face serious barriers to fully and freely participate in the different arenas of society. Health remains a critical challenge, with limited progress addressing sexual, reproductive, and child health, and infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. We are faced with a growing burden of non-communicable diseases and the spread of toxins in the environment, which have major implications for health and wellbeing. Human rights violations and environmentally destructive practices are often committed with impunity by large corporations, elites and other power holders with the support or complicity of state forces.

Addressing these challenges requires the political will for radical transformation that goes beyond superficial reforms. A new post-2015 development agenda should reorient development towards a sustainable and holistic approach to achieve peoples' wellbeing and the realization of human rights and dignity for all.

The new development framework must reaffirm and build upon the Rio principles and other international agreements in the area of development and human rights, including the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, among others. It must be based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capacity and the right to development. It must embrace a holistic rights-based approach, be grounded on international human rights obligations, and ensure that the human rights principles of equality, equity, non-discrimination, inclusive participation and decision making, non-

retrogression and progressive realization of economic and social rights, underpin its policies and practices. Such an approach ensures that the most marginalized will benefit from development and become active agents of change.

On the issues on the agenda for the APFSD, civil society offers the following recommendations.

### **1. On integration and transformation for sustainable development:**

To have a truly transformative impact, we must achieve **development justice**, which is based on five transformative shifts toward redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, ecological justice and accountability to the people.

**To achieve redistributive justice**, governments must reduce inequalities between and within countries, among women and men, and among different social groups by implementing policies that redistribute resources, wealth, power and opportunities. Governments must:

- Guarantee the rights of small farmholders, small fishing-folk, indigenous peoples, and women to have access to, control over and ownership of fisheries, property, productive resources, information, and appropriate and environmentally sound technology.
- Reduce the number of women and the number of men who lack secure rights to land, property and productive resources and ensure that women realize secure these rights on an equal basis with men.
- Reform tax policies to achieve progressive taxation to ensure the wealthy pay their fair share.
- Implement a new internationally-agreed standard measuring multi-dimensional progress based on the principles of sustainable development, that beyond indicators focused on GDP and economic growth.

To achieve **Economic justice** governments must develop economies that enable dignified lives, accommodate for needs and facilitate capabilities, employment and livelihoods available to all. Economies must not be based on exploitation of people or natural resources or environmental destruction, but should instead work for people, rather than compel people to work for economies. We must reverse the destructive tide of privatization and concentration of wealth and resources to private corporations.

In particular, governments must:

- Ensure that economic growth is inclusive, pro-poor and sustainable through the reduction of income inequalities between the top and bottom quintiles
- Enact and implement policies to guarantee decent work and living wages for all, including informal sector workers, migrant workers, women garment workers and domestic workers.
- Establish universal social protection floors and guarantee them through public budgets.
- Provide universal access to quality public services, including health, education, food, water, sanitation and hygiene, roads and justice, for all people of all ages.
- Guarantee universal access to affordable essential medicines and reform intellectual property rights regimes that undermine this.
- Provide universal access to learning, opportunity and skills training for all, especially youth.
- Eliminate exploitation and abuse of workers, especially child labor and labor trafficking.
- Guarantee the human rights of migrant workers and their families, including to social protection and access to services.

- Address the gendered division of labor by redistributing paid and unpaid work, expanding the availability of public care services, ensuring that women receive equal pay for work of equal value.
- Support the development of consumer protection systems with a specific focus on access to sustainable products and services, as well as the information and facilities that need to support sustainable use, reuse, recycling and disposal.

To achieve **social and gender justice** governments must eliminate all forms of discrimination, marginalization, exclusion and violence that pervade our communities and guarantee the human rights of all peoples, particularly women, widows, dalits, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, children, youth, older persons, people living with disabilities, people living with HIV and other illnesses, people who use drugs, transgender people, sex workers, domestic workers and workers in the informal sector, survivors of trafficking, people who are in closed institutions including prisons, and those excluded by caste, class, income, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, or social status.

- Eliminate all discriminatory laws and policies, particularly on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression;
- Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, guarantee access to comprehensive services for survivors of violence, and end impunity;
- Achieve parity between women and men in decision-making at all levels, including in local and national governments;
- Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through comprehensive prevention and treatment programs and services;
- End the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and emerging infectious diseases by guaranteeing equitable, universal, and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for all people.
- Control malaria through cost-effective, ecologically sound and ecosystem-based integrated vector management interventions.
- Ensure universal access to comprehensive, integrated, quality and non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health services, information and care;
- Guarantee sexual and reproductive justice and rights for all free from coercion, discrimination and violence;
- Address fundamentalisms;
- End harmful practices, particularly child, early and forced marriage.

To achieve **ecological justice** governments must recognize the people as sovereigns of our local and global commons and ensure that policies and practices we implement now do not jeopardize the rights of future generations to an environment in which they can grow and prosper.

Governments must:

- Ensure integrated ecosystem management and sustainable use of resources in forests, terrestrial, coastal and marine areas with the implementation of proper conservation, impact assessment and safeguarding measures and respect for the right of the local communities
- Curtail corporate control of industrial food production systems.
- Promote ecological agriculture to guarantee food sovereignty and prevent hunger and its consequences.
- Commit to carbon emission reductions and provide new, adequate, predictable, and appropriate climate finance on the basis of historical responsibility for climate change.
- Allocate sufficient resources towards and promote scientific and traditional knowledge.

- Develop a new international protocol for relocation and support of climate induced migrants.
- Eliminate dependency on harmful chemical inputs particularly pesticides.
- Eliminate GM seed use to protect farmers' seed system, biodiversity, environment and human health.
- Ensure sustainable management of solid waste from mountains to the ocean.
- Build resilience to climate change for rural, urban, coastal, and mountains areas, with a focus on more ecologically sensitive areas and people, particularly indigenous people and women.

**Accountability to peoples** demand democratic and just governments, transparency, and governance that enables people to make informed decisions over their own lives, communities and futures. Governments must:

- Guarantee the right of all people, but particularly women, youth and 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
- Guarantee the right to freedom of information.
- Regulate and hold transnational corporations accountable, through mechanisms that would bind corporations to respect human rights and other international laws (not just on a voluntary basis), including in their cross-border activities;
- Eliminate tax havens and illicit capital transfers.

## **2. On shared prosperity within planetary boundaries:**

**We must shift from the** fixation on economic growth and instead guarantee that people and the planet are at the heart of sustainable development. In this regard, we urge governments to:

- Guarantee universal access to quality public social services for all people without discrimination and regardless of migration status.
- Establish a production system that takes into account the real environmental costs of products and services and increase demand for greener products and services.
- Address environmental, economic and social challenges related to rapid urbanisation
- Reorient production, consumption and distribution systems and natural resource management and extraction towards peoples' needs.
- Achieve low-carbon development through the expansion of energy efficient and renewable energy systems and the reduction of energy use and eliminate fossil fuel subsidies.
- Be ambitious in addressing climate change and keep global temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees.
- Harness the benefits from 'peace dividends' and increase public spending on universalizing social services instead of increasing military spending;
- Establish regional institutions and juries to ensure accountability for environmental treaties, geographical (Mountain to Coastal) and trans-boundary issues; and
- Transform how poverty elimination and development is measured from economic metrics to more sustainable metrics on overall wellbeing.
- Recognise that resources are limited and shared amongst the people and countries and should be at the heart of defining growth within planetary boundaries.

Our vision of shared prosperity means '*leaving no one behind*' AND '*letting no one get away.*'

## **3. On governance, peace, and rule of law:**

The success of the next development framework and the creation of just societies depend on good governance and accountability, the rule of law, and commitments to peace and security. We stress the fundamental importance of an active and informed citizenry for holding governments accountable and urge the participation and leadership of civil society, social movements, and other stakeholders in decision and policy making processes at all levels. We also emphasize that youth and children must be recognized and engaged as equal stakeholders in the future of the planet.

Governments must:

- Guarantee accountable and democratic systems of governance, with checks and balances, including political opposition, and strong judiciaries
- Guarantee access to justice for all without discrimination of any kind;
- Ensure the participation and leadership of civil society, people's organizations, social movements, youth, and other stakeholders in decision and policy making and accountability mechanisms at all levels;
- Ratify, domesticate and implement existing international conventions, human rights treaties, environmental treaties and other relevant agreements;
- Ensure the full realization of all human rights;
- Guarantee the right to freedom of information and ensure that all people, in particular poor and marginalized communities, can obtain timely, quality, accessible, reliable and disaggregated information at all levels;
- End corruption;
- Create a regional mechanism, that is also accessible to individuals and groups, for resolving intra-country differences, increasing accountability and transparency, and sharing good practices and initiatives on sustainable development;
- Develop cross-border and multisectoral collaborations and accountability between countries of origin and destination to promote migrants' rights; and
- Establish a binding regulatory framework to ensure corporate sector accountability for activities that threaten sustainable development and human rights.

#### **4. On means of implementation:**

Supportive *Means of Implementation* and an effective global partnership is essential for the implementation of the sustainable development agenda and must include development-oriented rules that address region specific concerns. Governments must:

- Establish a stand-alone goal as well cross cutting components on means of implementation for each goal based on the principal of common but differentiated responsibilities;
- Recognize that new sources of financing such as public-private partnerships and south-south cooperation are complementary and not a substitute for traditional means of implementation keeping the public sector at the center of sustainable development financing;
- Raise finances through increased development assistance, progressive taxation, financial transaction taxes and the redirection of military spending to development.
- Establish international cooperation to eliminate tax havens and illicit capital flows.
- Ensure international cooperation on fiscal policy, including taxation, to prevent a race to the bottom.
- Prioritise public sector financing over public-private partnerships and strengthen corporate accountability and regulation.
- Go beyond technology transfer to address all stages of technology development, research, evaluation and dissemination, support and build local capacity and innovation, and promote endogenous and traditional knowledge and technology;

- Ensure that science and technology are used in a manner that increases equality, serves the communities that require it and provide access to marginalized groups.
- Strengthen capacities for development data collection and analyses including quantitative, qualitative, disaggregated and participatory data, generated by income, gender, age, race, urban/rural setting;
- Discourage remittance-based financing of development as it distorts the reality that migration is mostly a measure of underdevelopment and inequalities in the global economic system, and encourages the export of precarious workers;
- Earmark national resources and proportions of official development assistance to address gender and other forms of inequality;
- Overcome IPR barriers, especially on access to medicine;
- Reform trade and investment rules under the WTO and FTAs to protect policy space of national governments and to promote local production and employment, especially of farmers, fishers and other small producers;
- Commit to monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including disaggregated data collection, as well as greater accountability and transparency in development financing.

## 5. On the way forward:

We need to transform the mindsets of the UN, international institutions, and governments. If we want to achieve a truly transformative sustainable development agenda, we must not shy away from the so-called contentious issues, like international financial governance and trade structures, climate change, women's human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, among others.

In addition, we call upon the UN and the HLPF to effectively:

- Ensure policy coherence, not just across the UN and its agencies, but also with international financial and trade institutions.
- Initiate regional and sub-regional level peer review mechanisms to evaluate performance on sustainable development that involve all stakeholders;
- Establish special rapporteurs to assess progress, challenges and offer recommendations on how to address key sustainable development issues; and
- Develop accountability and reporting mechanisms for *all* stakeholders involved in financing sustainable development, including UN Agencies, international financial and trade institutions, transnational corporations and the private sector.

To facilitate and institutionalize civil society participation in development processes, we call upon the HLPF, Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) members, and governments to:

- Recognize civil society has the experience and technical expertise to contribute to constructive development debates based on our work from the grassroots to the global levels;
- Ensure that civil society engages not only as observers, but as partners with equal rights in policy development, implementation, monitoring and accountability in all regional and global mechanisms, including the APFSD and High Level Political Forum;
- Institutionalise civil society participation in all sustainable development processes through a regional civil society engagement mechanism designed and established by civil society themselves.

Finally, we as civil society commit to work together with people, governments and other institutions to promote just and sustainable development for all.



## ANNEX 2: COMMUNIQUE

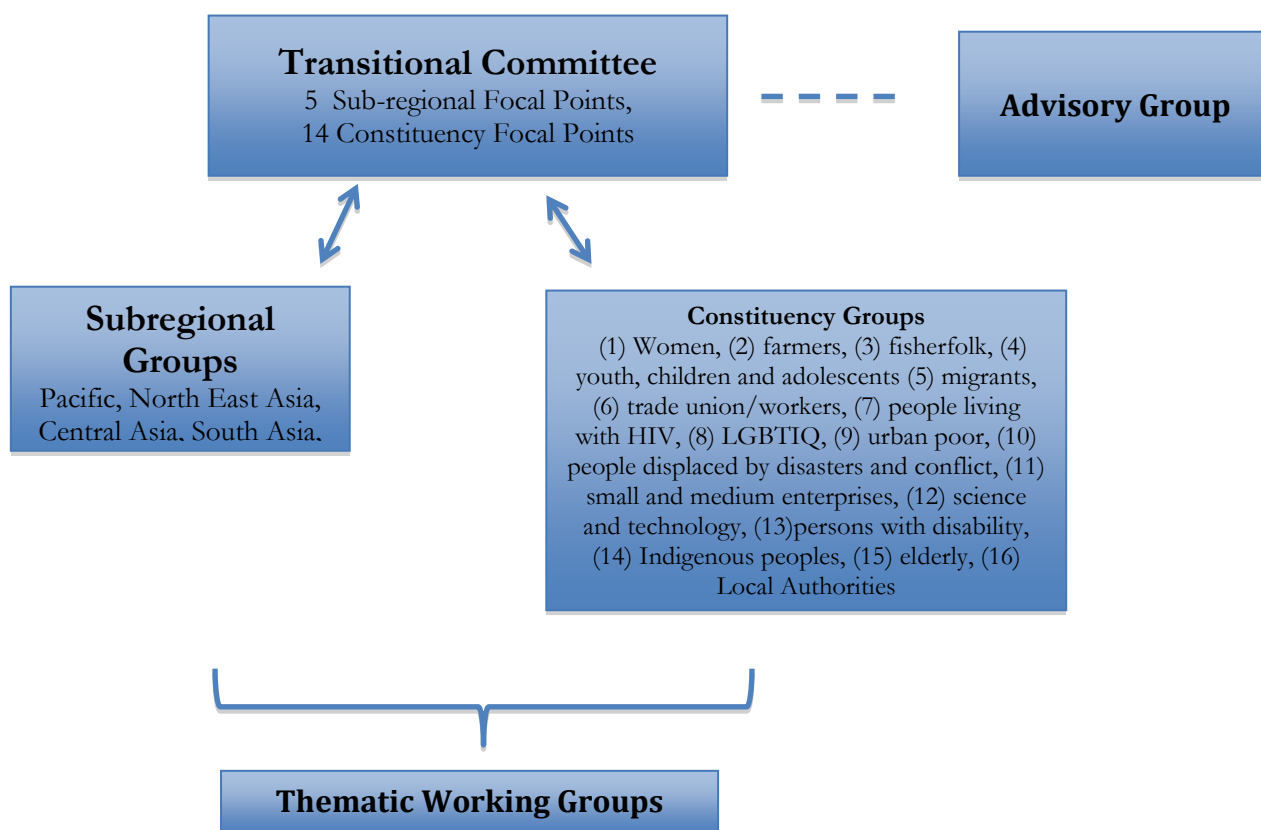
### Communique

#### Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)

Seventy-five (75) representatives of civil society organizations in the Asia Pacific region gathered on 15-17 May in Bangkok, Thailand for the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development. The meeting preceded the UNESCAP intergovernmental Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) and focused on consolidating and expanding the collective civil society call for Development Justice as central part of the post-2015 development agenda.

A major milestone of the CSO forum was the creation of a transition mechanism for a new **Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)**. The momentum to create such a mechanism derives from a series of discussions and meetings held throughout 2013 and 2014 in the region. These meetings have focused on the creation of a comprehensive and structured process to facilitate and coordinate Asia-Pacific CSO engagement on sustainable development with the entire United Nations system. This is a result of the Rio+20 outcomes, which has articulated the importance of multi-stakeholder participation for sustainable development.

During the CSO forum on May 15-17, representatives of the Transition Committee have been appointed based on constituency and sub-regional representation. During a one-year period (2014-2015) they will collate input from civil society on the optimal structure and functions of the RCEM. They will also facilitate outreach and capacity-building as well as consolidation and articulation of common positions of CSOs in the Asia-Pacific region in regional and global discussions on sustainable development. The Transition Committee is complemented by an Advisory Group consisting of individuals that have extensive knowledge on sustainable development and civil society engagement. This structure is expected to further evolve based on lessons learned and collective experience during this transition period and culminate in the formation of the full RCEM.



The aim of the RCEM is to enable stronger cross constituency<sup>2</sup> coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions<sup>3</sup> of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes. Thus, the RCEM will ensure that the 60% of the world's people living in the Asia Pacific region are better represented by civil society and social movements in global negotiations and have a stronger, coordinated, and more effective voice in regional processes.

As result of a bottom-up and inclusive process, the creation of the RCEM has been initiated, designed and will therefore be owned by CSOs in Asia and Pacific. It will be an open, inclusive and flexible mechanism designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs, harness the voice of grassroots and peoples' movements to advance a more just, equitable and sustainable model of development. Moreover, it will be a platform to share information and best practices and build capacities of CSOs for better and more effective engagement in the future.

Taking into account diversity of the Asia Pacific region and the limitations of existing institutional structures for civil society engagement, the CSO Forum in Bangkok defined 8 additional constituencies<sup>4</sup>, which are currently not included in the existing Major Group structure, as well as 5 (five) sub-regional groupings.

At the UNESCAP APFSD, the RCEM served to coordinate the interventions and engagement of CSOs in the various plenary and roundtable sessions as well as for side events and informal dialogues. This generated positive feedback from many UN bodies and member states who are recognizing the substantive contributions made by civil society at the APFSD. This was a very encouraging preview of the RCEM's role and contribution to the sustainable development agenda for the region and beyond.

With the RCEM civil society can better advance their collective call for **development justice** - an agenda that calls for five transformative shifts of redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice and accountability to peoples.

For further information:

**Wardarina** – Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

Chair of Transition Committee of RCEM.

Email: [rina@apwld.org](mailto:rina@apwld.org)

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<sup>2</sup> (1) Women, (2) farmers, (3) fisherfolk, (4) youth, children and adolescents (5) migrants, (6) trade union/workers, (7) people living with HIV, (8) LGBTIQ, (9) urban poor, (10) people displaced by disasters and conflict, (11) small and medium enterprises, (12) science and technology, (13) persons with disability, (14) Indigenous peoples, (15) elderly, (16) Local Authorities

<sup>3</sup> South East Asia, South Asia, North East Asia, Central Asia, Pacific

<sup>4</sup> Fisherfolk; migrants; people living with HIV; LGBTIQ; people displaced by disasters and conflict; SMEs; persons with disability; elderly

## Transition Committee

Constituency Focal Points		
1	<b>Wardarina</b> , Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Women/Chair of TC
2	<b>Wali Heider</b> , Roots for Equity, Pakistan	Farmers
3	<b>Paul Quintos</b> , Ibon International	NGO
4	<b>Anusha Kumari</b> , SLITU, Sri Lanka	Trade Union & Workers
5	<b>Frances Quimpo</b> , Center for Environmental Concern/CEC <b>Masanori Kobayashi</b> , Ocean Policy Research Foundation	Scientific and Technology
6	<b>Bernice See</b> , Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact/AIPP,	Indigenous Peoples
7	<b>Emani Kumar</b> , ICLEI	Local Authorities
8	<b>Kabita Gautam</b> , BYND2015 Nepal Hub	Youth, Children & Adolescent
9	<b>Gomer Padong</b> , Philippine Social Enterprise Network,	Small Medium Enterprise
10	<b>Lani Eugania</b> , PUANTANI, Indonesia	Fisherfolks
11	<b>Aron Ceradoy</b> , Asia Pacific Mission on Migrant	Migrants
12	<b>Maria Lourdes Marin</b> , Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS,	People Living with HIV
13	<b>Helen Hakena</b> , Leitana Nehan Women Development Agency, Papua New Guinea	People in Conflict and Disaster Area
14	<b>Rudolf Bastian Tampubolon</b> , GCAP SENCAP	LGBTIQ
Sub-Region Focal Point		
1	<b>Ranja Sengupta</b> , Third World Network	South Asia
2	<b>Ahmad Syamsul Hadi</b> , WALHI, Indonesia	Southeast Asia
3	<b>Cai Yi Ping</b> , DAWN, China	East Asia
4	<b>Nurgul Djanaeva</b> , Forum of Women's NGO of Kyrgyzstan	Central Asia
5	<b>Alaipuke Esau</b> , Pacific Youth Council	Pacific

## Advisory Group

1.	<b>Elenita Dano</b> , Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC) Group
2.	<b>Uchita de Zoysa</b> , Center for Environment and Development (CED)
3.	<b>Marjorie Pamintuan</b> , Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)
4.	<b>Yoke Ling Chee</b> , Third World Network (TWN)
5.	<b>Meena Bilgi</b> , Women Organising for Change in Agriculture (WOCAN)
6	<b>Simon Olsen</b> , Institute for Global Environment Strategies, (IGES)
7.	<b>Isagani R. Serrano</b> , Social Watch Philippines/Philippines Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
8.	<b>Karin Fernando</b> , Center for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)

### Annex 3. List of Participants

No.	Name	Organization	Country
1	Ahmad Syamsul Hadi	WALHI	Indonesia
2	Aron Ceradoy	Asia Pacific Mission for Migrant	China
3	Cai Yiping	DAWN	China
4	Elenita Dano	Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)	Philippines
5	Emani Kumar	ICLEI - Local Government for Sustainability South Asia	India
6	Farida Akhter	UBINIG	Bangladesh
7	Sushmita Mali	WOFOWON	Nepal
8	Gomer Padong	Philippines Social Enterprise Network	Philippines
9	Isagani Serrano	Social Watch Philippines	Philippines
10	John Hyde	Asian Forum on Parliantmentarian on Population and Development	Thailand
11	Kabita Gautam	BYND2015 Nepal Hub	Nepal
12	Lani Eugenia	Puantani	Indonesia
13	Maria Lourdes Marin	Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS	Thailand
14	Marjorie Pamintuan	Asia Pacific Research Network	Philippines
15	Meena Bilgi	WOCAN	India
16	Nurgul Djanaeva	Forum of Women's NGO of Kyrgysztan	Kyrgysztan
17	Oyunchimeg Myagmarjav	Institue for Future	Mongolia
18	Paul Quintos	Ibon International	Philippines
19	Sui Khar	AIPP	India
20	Toan Thran	Center for Sustainable Rural Development	Vietnam
21	Uchita de Zoysa	CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	Sri Lanka
22	Wardarina	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development	Thailand
23	Yevgeniya Kozyreva	Feminist League of Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
24	Ajay Jha	CECODECON	India
25	Alaipuke Esau	Pacific Youth Coalition	Fiji
26	Anusha Kumari	SLITU	Sri Lanka
27	CHENNAIAH Poguri	INDIA/AP. VYAVASAYA VRUTHIDARULA UNION-APVVU	India
28	Helen Hakena	Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency	PNG
29	Hina Lotia	LEAD Pakistan	Pakistan
30	Karin Fernando	Centre for Poverty Analysis'	Sri Lanka
31	M Rezaul Karim Chowdurry	Equity BD	Bangladesh
32	Ranja Sengupta	Third World Network	India
33	Roli Mahajan	Youth MG	India
34	Rosa Vasquez	PAN-AP	Malaysia
35	Satya Sharma	Consumers International	Malaysia
36	Sheepa Hafiza	BRAC	Bangladesh
37	Sudarsha De Silva	Earthlanka	Sri Lanka
38	Tahmina Rahman	ARTICLE 19	Bangladesh
39	Urmila Bhoola	IWRAW Asia Pacific	Malaysia
40	Wali Heider	Roots for Equity	Pakistan
41	Gainiliu Kamei	IWCF	North East India
42	Samia Afrin	Naripokkho	Bangladesh
43	Govind Kelkar	LANDESA	India
44	Kim Lee Choy	Tenaganita	Malaysia
45	Aizhamal Bakashova	PA Shazet	Kyrgysztan
46	Benita Nestami	Women Research Institute	Indonesia

47	Frances Maria Jessica Dongeto	Center for Environmental Concern	Philippines
48	Olga Djanave	NGO ALGA	Kyrgyzstan
49	Toma Lama	Mugal Indigenous Women Upliftment Institute	Nepal
50	Yaowalak Chantamas	SDF	Thailand
51	Kate Lappin	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development	Thailand
52	Anisa Draboo	LANDESA	India
53	Ayu Anastasia	Women Research Institute	Indonesia
54	Chaiskran Hiranpruk	ACWW	Thailand
55	Dinah Fuentesfina	World Society for the Protection of Animals - Asia Pacific	Thailand
56	Karthikeyan Subburaman	ASSIST (Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation)	Philippines
57	Maria Lee	WOCAN	Thailand
58	Masanori Kobayashi	Ocean Policy Research Foundation	Japan
59	Michel Anglade	Save the Children - Asia Regional Office	Singapore
60	Alexander Johns	Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)	Thailand
61	Rudolph Bastian Tampubolon	GCAP Youth SENCAP	Indonesia
62	Sam Ly	Beyond 2015-Asia/Cooperation Committee for Cambodia	Cambodia
63	Shannon Kowalski	International Women's Health Coalition	USA
64	Soottiporn Chittmittrapap	ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICSU ROAP)	Thailand
65	Susmita Choudury	International Planned Parenthood Federation, South Asia Region	India
66	Simon Olsen	IGES	Thailand
67	Maria Theresa Nera Lauron	Ibon International	Philippines
68	Wilailak Suraphuk	Thailand Environment Institutions	Thailand

Secretariat			
69	Punika Shinawatra	APWLD	Thailand
70	Daungkamon Doncha-Um	APWLD	Thailand
71	Smita Elena Sharma	Individual, Rapporteur	Malaysia

# Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development: *Consolidating and reaching out for development justice*

15-17 MAY 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

## Objectives:

1. Inform and capacitate civil society participants on sustainable development at the global and regional levels, and on the opportunities and modalities for engaging these processes;
2. Dialogue on the content and substance of the APFSD and formulate civil society positions building on Asia-Pacific civil society messages on post-Rio+20 and post-2015 development agenda and strategize interventions at the APFSD;
3. Unite on the creation of an Asia-Pacific civil society engagement facilitation mechanism for sustainable development; and
4. Agree on joint actions and follow up to civil society positions adopted.

## Provisional Programme

**Day ONE: 15 May 2014** | Thursday — Afternoon only

### Orientation on post-Rio+20 Sustainable Development Processes and Opportunities for Engagement

Facilitator of the Day: Neth Dano – ETC Group	
1:00-1:30pm	Registration
1:30-2:00	Welcoming Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masakazu Ichimura, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, ESCAP</li> <li>• Wardarina, Asia Pacific Women Law and Development (APWLD, Local Host)</li> </ul>
2:00-2:30	Objectives and overview of the program Introduction of the participants Film Showing : Short Film on Development Justice  <i>Facilitators</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wardarina, Asia Pacific Women Law and Development (APWLD, Local Host)</li> </ul>
2:30-3:30	Overview of post-Rio+20 & Opportunities for engagement and influencing the Sustainable Development agenda and processes at global to regional and national levels.  <i>Resource persons</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon Olsen, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</li> <li>• Masakazu Ichimura, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, ESCAP</li> <li>• Wardarina, Asia Pacific Women Law and Development (APWLD)</li> </ul>
3:30-4:00	Open Discussion
4:00-4:30	Snack Break
4:00-5:00	Proposal for the establishment of a Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism to ensure effective engagement with SD processes in Asia-Pacific

	<i>Resource Person</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uchita de Zoysa, Centre for Environment &amp; Development (CED)</li> </ul>
5:00-5:30	Participants' expectations, concerns and views on CSO engagement in SD processes in the region  <i>Facilitator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meena Bilgi, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture &amp; Natural Resource Management</li> </ul>
5:30-6:30	Major Group Discussions  <i>The objectives of this session are for the members of the major groups to get to know each other, discuss regional concerns and proposals and select focal persons that will work with the drafting for the declaration.</i>  <i>Facilitator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Quintos, IBON International, Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development</li> </ul>
6:30	Closing of the orientation session
	<b>EVENING SESSION: Technology Facilitation Meeting</b>

## Day TWO: 16 May 2014 | Friday

Facilitator of the Day: Wardarina, Asia Pacific Women Law and Development (APWLD)	
8:30-9:00AM	Registration for newcomers
9:00-9:15	Welcome and Introduction to Days 2 and 3  <i>Facilitator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wardarina, Asia Pacific Women Law and Development (APWLD)</li> </ul>
9:15-10:00	The World after CSD from the Civil Society Perspective: Sustainable development challenges, shaping the post-2015 development agenda in Asia-Pacific and status of OWG-SDG Consultations  <i>Resource persons</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uchita de Zoysa, Centre for Environment &amp; Development (CED)</li> <li>Ranja Sengupta, Third World Network (TWN)</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30	SDGs, Post-2015 Development Agenda and Means of Implementation in Asia-Pacific  <i>Resource Persons</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESCAP</li> <li>Cai Yiping, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	Snack Break
10:45-11:15	Overview and Summary of Asia-Pacific Civil Society Statements on Sustainable Development  <i>Facilitator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Quintos, IBON International, Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development</li> </ul>
11: 15-12:15	Panel Discussion: Civil Society Recommendations on Means of Implementation to attain sustainable development in Asia-Pacific



	<p><i>Panelists will address the following questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What Financial, Technological and Capacity building resources are needed to attain SD in the region?</li> <li>2. What specific Partnerships are required to promote SD in the region?</li> </ol> <p><i>And react to the following APFSD Questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to stimulate long-term investment for achieving sustainable development, and how to align those funds with sustainable development outcomes? What are the experiences of the region re: innovative financing?</li> <li>2. How to create a Regional Technology Transfer Mechanism, including Partnerships for R&amp;D for innovation?</li> <li>3. What regional partnerships with global impact are needed?</li> <li>4. What is the role of the UN system and what forms of regional support would be most effective?</li> </ol> <p><i>Resource Persons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers/Fisherfolk – Wali Haider, Roots for Equity</li> <li>• Women – Nurgul Djanaeva, Forum for Women NGOs in Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• Indigenous Peoples – Sui Khar, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact</li> <li>• Trade Union/Migrants – Aaron Ceradoy, Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marjorie Pamintuan, Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)</li> </ul>
12:15-1:15	Lunch Break
1:15-3:30	<p>Group Discussions: Sustainable Development Challenges and Civil Society Responses in Asia-Pacific Working documents: 2012-2013 CSO declarations.</p> <p><i>Each participant will choose a thematic group discussion to join. Each group will elect a chair and a rapporteur who will work with the Drafting Team in formulating the declaration. Each group will tackle the following questions with the input from the resource persons.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key issues and challenges in the region with regard to the specific theme assigned to the Group?</li> <li>• How are civil society and social movements addressing these challenges? Cite specific regional initiatives.</li> <li>• What financial, technological and capacity building resources and partnerships are required to address these challenges?</li> </ul> <p><i>APFSD Questions on the Thematic Discussions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Shared planetary boundaries</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can the region have shared prosperity while respecting planetary boundaries?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Integration and Transformation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the key requirements and opportunities for, and barriers to, integrating the three dimensions of SD? What are the fundamental and systemic transformations needed to achieve sustainable development?</li> <li>- How can we move to a paradigm of long-term investments in people and planet, in line with sustainable development goals?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Governance, Peace, Stability and the Rule of Law</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lesson learnt from the MDGs: Why are rule of law and capable institutions crucial to sustainable and inclusive development?</li> <li>- Which concrete elements of good governance and the rule of law have been particularly useful in advancing economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development in Asia-Pacific?</li> <li>- Regional and national examples can highlight, for example, the usefulness of effective, accountable and transparent institutions, non-discriminatory legal frameworks, legal identity, access to information and justice, or fighting corruption and organized crime.</li> <li>- What targets on governance, rule of law and capable institutions should be included in the post-2015 framework as a priority?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Thematic Groups:</p> <p>1. "Shared Prosperity within Planetary Boundaries": State of Environment in Asia-Pacific Resource Person: Farida Ahkter, Ubinig Neth Dano – ETC Group</p> <p>2. "Integration and Transformation for Sustainable Development": State of Finance and Economy in Asia Pacific Resource Persons: - Ranja Sengupta, TWN Paul Quintos, Ibon International, Campaign for Peoples Goals</p> <p>3. "Governance, Peace, Stability and the Rule of Law" Resource Person: Urmilla Bhoola, IWRAW Wardarina, APWLD</p>
3:30 – 3:45	Snack break
3:45-4:30	Presentation of Workshop Outputs/Summary of Thematic Group Discussions
4:30-5:30	<p>"Way Forward": Identifying regional priorities and formulating specific recommendations to ensure effectiveness, relevance and coherence of sustainable development processes in the region</p> <p><i>Resource Persons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uchita de Zoysa, Centre for Environment &amp; Development (CED)</li> <li>• Representatives from the 3 thematic group discussions</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cai Yiping, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>EVENING SESSIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Drafting Group to work on the Declaration</b></li> <li>• <b>UNEA SF Meeting</b></li> </ul>

### Day THREE: 17 May 2014 | Saturday

Facilitator of the Day: Marjorie Pamintuan, Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)	
9:00-10:30AM	<p>Presentation, discussion and adoption of the draft APCFSD Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative of the drafting group</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	Snack break
10:45-12:15	Open Dialogue on the creation of a Regional Civil Society Engagement Committee/Transition

	<p>Mechanism</p> <p><i>Facilitators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neth Dano – ETC Group</li> <li>• Uchita de Zoysa, Centre for Environment &amp; Development (CED)</li> </ul>
12:15-1:30PM	Lunch Break
1:30-3:00	<p>Breakout Groups on the Characteristics, Structure and Processes of the Transition Mechanism</p> <p><i>Participants will be divided into three discussion groups on the different aspects of the proposed transition mechanism, 1. Characteristics, 2. Structure, and 3. Process, while ensuring balance among the number of participants coming from the major groups, thematic, sectors, and subregion. The participants will select a facilitator and documentor that will work with the drafting team on the declaration. Each participant is free to move to other groups during the discussion. The facilitators and documentors will stay in the same group.</i></p>
3:00-4:30	<p>Convergence Session: Agreements on the RCEC/ Transition Mechanism</p> <p><i>Presentation of the group discussion results</i></p> <p><i>Achieving agreements on the RCEC/Transition Mechanism</i></p> <p><i>Facilitators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uchita de Zoysa, Centre for Environment &amp; Development (CED)</li> <li>• Marjorie Pamintuan, Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)</li> </ul>
4:30-5:30	Final Briefing on APFSD interventions;
5:30-6:30	CLOSING & Logistical briefing on transfer to Pattaya for participants attending the APFSD

**May 18**

**Transfer to Pattaya for CSO participants attending the APFSD**