



**Asia Pacific Civil Society  
Engagement Mechanism**

# Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

*a platform for effective  
engagement on sustainable  
development*

# What is the RCEM?

- o **open, inclusive and flexible** mechanism designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs, to harness the voice of grassroots and peoples' movements to advance **Development Justice** which calls for a more just, equitable and sustainable model of development.



# Why RCEM?

- In the midst of developing the new development agenda that will replace MDGs.
- The role of CSOs is quite important because of their **capacity to mediate between governments and citizens** and their representation of the **voices of marginalized groups**.
- **More than watchdogs**, CSOs also have the diversity of **expertise** which **can improve policy making** towards addressing the development needs of citizens.

# Why RCEM?

- the idea to establish the RCEM made its first appearances in regional and subregional CSO meetings in the aftermath of the Rio+20 conference,
- CSO's evaluated their engagement and found strengths and weaknesses in the preexisting modalities of engagement, as they had been established more than 20 years ago by the original Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

# Why RCEM?

- While providing a structured means to manage diversity among civil society, it has been argued that the major groups engagement mechanism, while formalizing participation, has also reduced the scope and role of CSO engagement with the UN system (Adams 2013).
- little had occurred to ensure civil society from the Asia Pacific region is fully engaged in international and regional processes.
- Civil society engagement in regional processes, in particular, has been sporadic and primarily thematic.

# Why RCEM?

- Ensure that the diversity of Asia and Pacific civil society is able to engage with and influence national, sub-regional, regional and international intergovernmental processes and to also ensure that the peoples of Asia and Pacific are able to promote and implement sustainable development goals





# How was RCEM created?

- The AP-RCEM was initiated, owned and driven by CSOs and their constituents. It has been set up after a series of meetings and collaborative consultations under the auspices of UNESCAP and seeks to engage with Member States and UN agencies on development related processes and issues.



# Transitional Committee

5 Sub-regional Focal Points,  
14 Constituency Focal Points

Advisory Group

## Subregional Groups

Pacific, North East Asia,  
Central Asia, South Asia,  
South East Asia

## Constituency Groups

(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, (17) NGOs

Thematic Working Groups



# What RCEM has done so far

- coordinating input from the Asia Pacific region ensuring a regional voice during the post2015 negotiating sessions.
- recognized through the formal acknowledgement of its role as partner of ESCAP in organizing the official CSO forum that precedes the first APFSD in 2014 and the one underway for 2015, as well as in providing direct inputs in the preparations for the official process.





- RCEM members continue to unite around a common call for **Development Justice** (as stipulated in the Bangkok Declaration) that aims to reduce inequalities of wealth, power, resources and opportunities between states, between rich and poor and between men and women.
- It requires five transformative shifts of redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice and accountability to the peoples.



**Thank you!**

