

## **Annual Report 2017**

### **Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD)**

#### **Activities**

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- 2. APSD Steering group meetings**
- 3. APSD statement on Agenda 2030**
- 4. APSD members' involvement in UNESCAP meeting on SDGs in March 2017 in Bangkok**
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#### **1. ADA - APSD workshop on VNR in Bangkok in February 2017**

Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) and Asia Development Alliance (ADA) organized a regional workshop on national implementation of 2030 agenda and Voluntary National Review (VNR) in Bangkok on 24-25 February 2017. The workshop aimed at discussing the role of CSOs in the VNR process in the VNR listed countries this year and previous year. It also aimed at discussing CSOs' role in the upcoming HLPF at New York in July 2017.

It discussed the opportunities to be engaged with the respective governments in the process of VNR. Representatives from countries shared their work on VNR. It was felt that the governments prefer cherry-picking the goals while implementing leaving aside the difficult goals like goal 16 (Peace) and goal 10 (Inequality). Though HLPF is not very rigorous exercise, it provides good scope to hold the governments accountable. The group came up with proposals of collective actions around VNR, goal 16 and 10.

#### **2. APSD Steering group meeting:**

Face-to-Face meeting of the steering group members of APSD was held on the sidelines of the APSD-ADA workshop on VNR on 25<sup>th</sup> February. The SG members discussed and charted out the action plan for engagement for the year 2017.

Two more SG meetings were held online in May and November 2017. The SG took stock of the activities undertaken and discusses the further plans of engagement.

### **3. APSD statement on Agenda 2030:**

The members of APSD drew a statement on the working of SDGs and climate change in the end of ADA-APSD workshop on SDGs held in February 2017 in Bangkok. The statement was sent to the UNESCAP and to the HLPF as charter of demands.

### **4. APSD members' involvement in UNESCAP/APFSD meeting on SDGs in March 2017 in Bangkok**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) convened the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2017 in Bangkok on 29 to 31 March, 2017 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and as a preparatory event for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) scheduled for July 2017 in New York. Representatives from the diverse civil society organizations from the Asia-Pacific participated in the following two events. One, Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development (APCSFSD) from 26 - 28 March and the other, Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) from 29 - 31 March in Bangkok.

Various issues which were discussed upon are: gender, poverty, climate justice, sustainable agriculture etc. CSOs from various VNR countries presented the process followed in their respective countries. UNESCAP engaged senior leaders from national and local governments, civil society, business and the international community on the theme 'Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific.'

Jyotsna Pandey, ADA Coordinator prepared a compilation of VNR process in 11 Asian nations as presented in the UNESCAP APFSD meeting in March 2017 and was circulated the google group and elsewhere as part of sharing information.

Many of the members of APSD participated and contributed to the process. APSD submitted a statement to APFSD, which was issued from the February meeting of APSD. The statement raised key concerns and made recommendations vis-à-vis the implementation of SDGs.

### **5. APSD involvement in the national level engagements in VNR**

The members of APSD - ADA supported and participated in the national processes in the VNR nations. The members of ADA and GCAP were engaged in various degrees in the VNR process in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Japan. Nepal and India prepared a full-fledged shadow reports and in Japan and Bangladesh, and in Bangladesh and Japan CSOs prepared advocacy papers to influence the official VNR process.

In Thailand the member of APSD People's Empowerment Foundation and its partners prepared shadow report on Goal 1.

## **6. Capacity building webinar on VNR**

A Webinar on VNR organised by APSD-GCAP-ADA on April 29, 2017, which was participated by 8 countries. (Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Belgium).

It discussed about the basics of VNR process, the difference between VNR and Shadow reporting, how was the process in 2016 and what are the priorities in 2017. VNR process from Japan, Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, Maldives were discussed. And the VNR process in Philippines and South Korea last year was also discussed.

## **7. Submission regional report to A4SD**

APSD secretariat prepared and submitted an Asia level involvement report in Agenda 2030 and sent to Action4SD global campaign, which was discussed during A4SD workshop in NY during HLPF.

## **8. APSD in GCAP's side event at HLPF**

APSD partnered in the side event on Inequality organized by GCAP and others during HLPF on 12th July 2017 in Baha'i International Community, UN Office, New York.

## **9. Sept 25 mobilisation – Global Day of Action**

APSD-GCAP did a series of mass mobilizations in 8 countries in Asia on September 25<sup>th</sup> to mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Agenda 2030. Several organisations from Pakistan, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Philippines, Japan mobilized massive numbers of people who came on the streets doing rallies, marches, organizing basket ball match etc. They met the authorities demanding actions on SDGs. And there was massive online actions showing ownership of the Agenda 2030, spreading awareness among masses and pressuring the authorities to act on SDGs.

## **10. APSD Logo and Membership registration process of APSD**

APSD logo final draft has been prepared by the secretariat and awaits the approval of the SG members.

An online membership registration process was initiated where the individual NGOs, networks, campaigns can register themselves with APSD as non-voting members. By mid-January 2018, 120 networks/campaigns and NGOs have registered with APSD.

## **11. APSD-World Vision Toolkit on VNR**

World Vision is in process of preparing a toolkit on VNR under the APSD banner. The toolkit will be administered soon and will be widely used for purpose of training and capacity building. There are 3 parts in the toolkit. One introduces VNR; second discusses about the good practices on VNR. And the third is on developing strategy to engage with the VNR process.