

# Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD)

## Terms of Reference (ToR)<sup>1</sup>

*(As revised on February 25, 2017)*

### **Identities:**

- APSD is an open, inclusive and independent civil society platform of CSOs/NGO, social and grassroots movements in Asia, engaged in advocacy on issues related to sustainable development specially implementation of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs in short)
- APSD is a regional civil society platform where CSOs engaged in different SDG goals or targets to share the experiences of engagement to promote international, cross-sectoral cooperation overcoming silos and fragmentation.
- APSD is a regional civil society network of CSOs that are involved in the global platform on SDGs in order to engage proactively global partnerships and inter-governmental mechanisms as well as national governments.

### **Vision:**

- A sustainable community of peoples who enjoy all human and people's rights without discrimination and exclusion through international solidarity action against poverty and climate crisis as well as inequality, injustice and insecurity in Asia and beyond.

### **Mission:**

- Our mission is to build a stronger regional network of CSOs
- strengthen voices of the grassroots movements, people's organisations and civil society groups with regards to the implementation of sustainable development agenda that promotes inclusive socio-economic and ecological transformation in the Asia Region by promoting intra-national, international and inter-sectorial cooperation and people-to-people solidarity.

### **Objectives:**

1. To create and provide space for information-sharing and critical thinking and analysis about sustainable development and climate change,
2. To create and provide space for networking and coalition-building for cross-fertilization of ideas and mutual learning among national and international CSOs,

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<sup>1</sup> This ToR is a modified version of the one, which was originally adopted on August 14, 2016 in Bangkok. This modified version has come after the discussion by the members of Steering Group on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in its first meeting at Bangkok. The modified one does not take away the essence of views expressed by the larger group but strengthens it.

3. To facilitate capacity-building on issues related SDGs and climate change
4. To facilitate advocacy on SDGs and climate change related issues by engaging with regional and global mechanisms like APFSD, ASEAN, SAARC, HLPF etc in cooperation with the existing organizations and networks.
5. It aims at bringing forth the effort of civil society to flag off the voices of the most neglected section of society resulting from social economic causes and geographical isolation and advocate for their advancements.

### **Membership and Governance:**

#### Membership:

- APSD's membership is open to any networks, alliances, federations or coalitions that agree to the mission and objectives and are willing to work in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.
- All CSOs from Asia, especially members of global CSO platforms on SDGs such as A4SD, Together 2030, TAP Network, etc. are invited to the APSD.
- Interested CSOs can become a member through online registration.
- Membership registration is to be set up soon for online registration.
- Irrespective of membership the platform will be open for participation by any members of civil society in its annual forum and working groups

#### Governance:

- The governance structure is composed of Annual General Forum, Co-conveners, Working Groups, Steering Committee (SC), and Communication Focal Point (Interim Secretariat).

### **Annual Meeting – Annual General Forum**

General forum meeting will be held once in a year.

#### **Co-conveners:**

- Co-conveners are a group of international (Global/Regional) CSOs, which are committed to facilitating / coordinating common activities of the APSD and the organization of the Annual General Forum.
- The proposed members of the Co-conveners for 2016-2017 are as follows<sup>2</sup>;
  - ✓ Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)-Asia,
  - ✓ Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
  - ✓ Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
  - ✓ World Vision-Asia.
- Each convening organisation/campaign will designate one person as its representative for the convening role.

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<sup>2</sup> The ToR will be discussed again be discussed in the Annual Forum Meeting to be held in May/June 2017 based on the working of the platform and recommendations of the existing steering group.

- The Co-Conveners will be accountable to the Steering Group.

### **Working Group:**

- Various working groups on different themes and tasks will be created as a facilitating platform for policy advocacy, mobilization and campaign, capacity building.
- Any member can initiate the formation of working group with like-minded members and develop their own ToR taking into account their own needs and demands.
- One member can join multiple working groups depending on its own interest and capacity.
- Initially the following four working group are being created:
  1. Children – Coordinated by World Vision-Asia
  2. Inequality – Coordinated by GCAP-Asia
  3. SDG 16 – Coordinated by ADN
  4. Inter-faith cooperation – Coordinated by Act Alliance
  5. Rural Development (Food security and climate change etc) – Coordinated by AsiaDHRRRA
  6. VNR process - Coordinated by ADA
- In every two years the group will decide on the anchor organisation for coordination.

### **Steering Group:**

- There will be a steering group consisting of the co-conveners and one representative from each working group to be set up.
- This group will give general strategic directions to the APSD
- It will meet physically once in a year and strategize the engagement of APSD with UNESCAP and HLPF
- It may meet virtually as frequently as possible whenever necessary

### **Representatives from the working group in the Steering Group (Apart from the Co-Conveners)**

- Anoop Sukumaran, Act Alliance
- Marlene Ramirez and Mags Catindig, AsiaDHRRRA

### **Communication focal points (Interim Secretariat):**

- Pradeep Baisakh, GCAP-Asia, e mail id: [pradeep.baisakh@whiteband.org](mailto:pradeep.baisakh@whiteband.org)
- Jyotsna Pandey , ADA, e mail id: [ada2030.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:ada2030.secretariat@gmail.com)

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# Annexure

## Background of formation of APSD:

- Asia Civil Society Partnership on Sustainable Development (APSD) is a result of the regional consultation meeting held in Bangkok on 14 August 2016 convened by Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)-Asia and Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and attended by about 30 local, national and international CSOs. (List of participating CSOs attached)
- The Bangkok consultation meeting was held as a regional follow-up to the global consultation process, more specifically founding meeting of the “Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)” (Bogota, Colombia on 29 April 2016) and follow-up consultation meeting (New York, 16-17 July 2016). However, it may be noted that the proposed APSD is independent of any global processes.
- During the Bangkok consultation on 14 August 2016, a Facilitation Group was formed to prepare for an organizational document / Terms of Reference (ToR) regarding identity, mission and goals/objectives, membership and governance, main activities, etc.