



NextGen Partnerships: Empowering Youth to accelerate SDG delivery

Side Event: 12th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

February 27, 16:45-18:00 GMT+7

A unique webinar link will be sent to each participant's email upon completion of the online registration.

Organizer(s)

Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

Co-organizer(s)

ASEAN Youth Forum, Indonesia
ChildFund International
Plan International, Asia-Pacific Regional Hub
UNDP, Asia Pacific Regional Office
Youth for Change, Bangladesh

Registration

To register for this side event, please use

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nySHVX61Sqqa2XIUcYTdng

Background

[Please concisely describe the relevance of the topic and its connection with the overall theme of the 12th APFSD. Please do not exceed 200 words]

As we fast approach the 2030 Agenda deadline, the world continues to remain offtrack on several SDGs like achieving gender equality, inclusive health access and climate justice. A lack of meaningful, inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships and shrinking civic spaces have exacerbated these gaps in progress. They have also served to constrain freedom of association and political participation — especially for youths. As such, there are limited spaces for youths to meaningfully engage in national development and political processes. Without which, Voluntary National



Reviews (VNRs) across countries continue to inadequately capture youths' fresh perspectives, innovative solutions and contributions to powering SDG progress.

This session, a collaboration of six organisations across the Asia-Pacific region, addresses the urgent need to protect and expand civic spaces, foster inclusive partnerships, and ensure meaningful youth engagement in national development and political processes.

Youth leaders from varying SDG areas—such as climate justice, indigenous and minority rights, and gender equality—will share their experiences through a storytelling approach. The session will highlight barriers and opportunities for youth-led organisations to shape inclusive development policies and identify actionable steps for governments, international development stakeholders, and others to empower youth-led partnerships and accelerate SDG progress.

Key Questions and Outcomes

[Please provide 3-4 key questions that will be guiding this side event and its expected outcomes. Please do not exceed 200 words]

The side event will focus on the pivotal role of civic spaces (SDG 16) in fostering inclusive, multistakeholder partnerships (SDG 17) with youth-led organisations to address gender equality (SDG 5) and climate action (SDG 13). This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. What are the challenges that youth-led organisations have experienced as regards partnership with other sectors (including government and the private sector) in SDG efforts?
2. What are the specific obstacles that prevent youth-led organisations to collaborate with stakeholders across SDGs—particularly in governance, climate justice, and gender equality—and how can these be addressed?
3. Based on practical experiences, how can multi-stakeholder partnerships with youth-led organisations protect and expand civic spaces?
4. To what extent are youth voices currently reflected in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), particularly for SDGs 5 and 17)? What measures are necessary to ensure these contributions are meaningfully incorporated?

As such, the event aims to spotlight the varying approaches to protecting and expanding civic spaces to scale up contributions of youth-led organisations to accelerate SDG delivery. The session will bring together a gender- and country-diverse lineup of speakers to explore youth contributions to SDG progress. At the conclusion of this session, participants should have an improved understanding of the challenges and successes of supporting youth-led organisations contributions to SDG delivery across countries in Asia, highlighting actionable learnings. This session will also serve as an opportunity to further a network of youth leaders and youth-led organisations with multi-stakeholders to foster regional collaborating and peer learning, in the context of accelerating SDG delivery.



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh
এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ



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Programme

Duration/Time	Segment/Topic	Speaker / Details
5 min 16:45 – 16:50	Opening	Ms Najeeba Mohammed Altaf, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
5 min 16:50 – 16:55	Kick-off Poll	Mentimeter Poll
Story-telling segment		
5 min 16:55 – 17:00	Topic: Climate Governance	Speaker 1 Jeta Jiranuntarat, co-coordinator, Global Youth Biodiversity Network for Thailand (GYBN Thailand).
5 min 17:00 – 17:05	Topic: Gender Equality & Climate Justice	Speaker 2 Mohammad Naufal Youth Advocate, Community Leader, Climate & Child Protection Activist Indonesia
5 min 17:05 – 17:10	Topic: Indigenous Community Issues	Speaker 3 Shourza Talukder, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue
5 min 17:10 – 17:15	Topic: Partnerships, focusing on freedom of expression, associ and peaceful assembly	Speaker 4 Sayma Rahman Payel, Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Organization WeMen View, Moderator, Our Voices Our Choice Hub
Reflections from the lens of Government		
5 min 17:15 – 17:20	Topic: Reflections on collaborating with youth-led organisations for SDG delivery	Speaker 5 Mr Shihab Quader, Director General for SDGs (Join Secret Chief Adviser's Office, Dhaka
5 min 17:20 – 17:25	Second Poll	Mentimeter Poll
30 min 17:25 – 17:55	Audience Q&A	Ms Najeeba Mohammed Altaf, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)



5 min 17:55 – 18:00	Closing Remarks	Ms Najeeba Mohammed Altaf, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
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*As a multi-stakeholder event, the APFSD Secretariat strongly encourages inclusion of multiple groups of stakeholders as panelists and speakers. If you would like suggestions or connections to potential representatives from constituencies of the Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) or ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) please contact us at escap-apfsd@un.org.

For information, please Ms. Najeeba Mohammed Altaf, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), at najeeba@cpd.org