

Asia -Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) -2017

Proposal for organising a Youth Forum (23-25 March)

Young people in the SDGs: Sustainable Solutions to eradicate Poverty and Promote Prosperity

Introduction:

The Asian Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), the annual ministerial convening of the UN member states in the Asia- Pacific Region to review the implementation of SDG-2030 will take place from 29-31 March, 2017. The convening in the region is facilitated by UNESCAP.

The theme of APFSD this year is **“Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia and Pacific”** with focus on **SDG 1. End poverty in all its form everywhere, 2. End hunger, 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources and 17. Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.** The focus is in line with HLPF theme and focus goals in 2017.

This year’s APFSD will primarily be based on the regional perspective on the implementation, follow up and review of 2030 Agenda. Implementation arrangements - including their national approach of implementing SDGs (architecture) including modalities of CSOs engagements, Means of Implementation, Financing, Localising the SDGs, and Regional roadmap for the implementation (negotiation format). The APFSD 2017 will be preceded by a CSO forum coordinated by Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP- RCEM) from 26-28 March, 2017. This CSO forum brings together CSOs from across the region working in different constituencies and prepare for interventions at the APFSD.

Proposal for a Youth Forum

APFSD 2017 will be an important space for advocacy for civil society given that the outcomes of the APFSD 2017 will feed into HLPF 2017. It is important that young people from the region engage and advocate at these spaces to take forward the agenda of young people. Discussions and outcomes at the APFSD, which involves Member States from the region, have the potential to feed into the national level development plans and strategies, and the HLPF 2017.

Young people constitute 60% of world’s youth in the Asia Pacific region and it is important to ensure voices of youth are integrated in the 2017 APFSD deliberations. The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) has been in discussion with Youth Lead, the youth constituency of AP-RCEM and Co-chair of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) to collaborate together to organise a APFSD Youth Forum, prior to APFSD 2017 (22-25th March 2016).

The aim of the youth forum will be on young people- how young people can actively participate in the review, monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and other regional processes. The primary focus of the APFSD Youth Forum 2017 will be in the areas of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights, especially young people’s access to SRH

services and comprehensive sexuality education without stigma, discrimination and violence and the rights of persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities. The youth forum will strategise on how the global partnership for sustainable development can be revitalised integrating young people rights and aspirations through the means of implementation goal, meaningful youth participation, social justice, and gender equality.

Objectives of the youth forum

- To bring together young people, youth-led and youth- serving organisations from the Asia Pacific region to discuss the APFSD 2017 thematic issue of “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia and Pacific” and how young people can engage meaningfully with this process;
- Young people from the region will provide concrete youth-focused recommendations to the APFSD outcome document ,and the regional implementation, follow up and review of 2030 Agenda ;
- Young people from the region will discuss respective SDG goals, which are the focus for APFSD and HLPF 2017, (Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17), and deliberate on how young people’s issues can be integrated within these goals and the broader development agenda.
- Young people from the Asia Pacific VNR countries in 2017 (Afghanistan, Iran, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, India, Thailand, Japan, and Nepal) will discuss recommendations to be taken forward to the Member States in the country VNR reviews;
- Young people will develop a “**YOUTH CALL TO ACTION FOR APFSD 2017**” which will be used for advocacy during the CSO Forum for APFSD 2017, official APFSD 2017 deliberations and outcome documents to fully integrate young people issues in the APFSD and related regional processes.

Proposed dates

23-25 March

Participation

Young people from the region. It is proposed to have about 60 – 100 young people at this forum

Venue

Bangkok

Organising partners – The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) , and AP-RCEM Youth Constituency , (further collaborations will be explored with other APRCEM constituencies).

Process

A self-funded application process has been initiated and is being sent to APRCEM constituencies. Young participants will be selected from the various constituencies to attend the meeting. ARROW partners , youth-led and youth serving organisations will also attend this forum