



Asia-Pacific Youth Call To Action

REGIONAL YOUTH FORUM AHEAD OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2021

14-16th March 2021

“Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia and the Pacific: Youth at the Forefront of Accelerated Transformation”

Who Are We and Why This Call To Action?

We are a diverse group of 500 young activists, advocates and individuals¹ across social movements, youth led, youth serving, feminist, and allied organisations who have come together during the 2021 APFSD Youth Forum held virtually this year from 14 – 17 March 2021. Together, we represent youth belonging to the 13-30 age group and our representation is varied, consisting of young people with disabilities, youth from indigenous communities, ethnic and minority groups including Dalits, young people living with HIV and young people belonging to various sexual orientation, gender, identity, expression and characteristics among others. Our participation in the forum is a representation of our collective voice from the Asia and the Pacific region².

This APFSD Youth Call to Action reflects our concerns and embodies our demand for sustainable, inclusive and human rights focused solutions for the Decade of Action³. The theme for this year’s APFSD is “Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia and the Pacific”, and it will not

be possible without young people at the forefront of accelerated transformation and action in the region.

As the world moves ahead to meet the target of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, we call for Member States to adopt an intersectional, non-discriminatory and participatory approach, one that fosters youth empowerment and leadership, so we can collectively address the issues that affect our agency, our decisions and our quality of life -- namely gender inequality, poverty, the socio-economic gap, and sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination, to name a few. We demand unrestricted access to basic necessities, health, education, information and technology, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities – all of which disproportionately affects young persons living in remote, rural, and slum areas, youth working in the informal sector, and those from marginalised groups including migrants and refugees, stateless and displaced persons. While the world explores transformative recovery from COVID-19, crucial lessons from the pandemic must be understood to enable accelerated sustainable solutions that will benefit us, our planet and our environment.

[1]

For common issues faced by countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including on recovery and resilience on COVID-19 and Climate Action, we call for an inter-country and regional collaborative effort to be put in by all actors in addition to the State. As equal partners in turning the 2030 Agenda into reality, we reiterate that this ambitious agenda can only be achieved with young people's leadership, meaningful participation and support, and empowering youth-adult partnerships across the region. We believe that it is critical that regional and national action plans put in place to implement the SDGs are coherent with prior commitments to international agreements⁴.

How Are We Left Behind?

Globally, the Asia Pacific region is home to more than half of the young people in the world today -- about 750 million⁵ -- who face a broad range of intersecting challenges. Ours is a diverse region that is facing the burdens of rising lack of access to education and decent work, extreme poverty, and the most disastrous effects of climate change. 71 million young people aged 15-24 are unemployed worldwide, of which 33 million are from the Asia Pacific alone⁶. Even though the region has one of the world's highest youth labour force participation rates, it is marked by poor work quality, conditions, and informality⁷, which in turn is leading to rising cases of mental health issues of youth in the region⁸.

About 1.88 billion people in Asia-Pacific lack access to the internet, nearly half of the population⁹. When COVID-19 emerged, the world had to adapt to online modes of communication, work, and education, deepening the disadvantages for people in the region who had little or no access to the internet and in turn, exacerbating issues of rising unemployment and lack of access to quality education, essential services and information.

Furthermore, the Asia Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world and despite the region's poorer communities contributing the least to carbon emissions, they are the ones bearing the harshest consequences of climate change¹⁰. The poor, young people, women, people with disabilities and people living in rural areas are those who find it hardest to adapt to the changes and consequences of climate change and have been put at greater risk for food and water insecurity, forced migration and displacement, and the inability to react to disaster response and recovery situations¹¹. These inequalities have only been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19.

COVID-19 and its' Impact On Us

The pandemic poses an unprecedented threat to development in the Asia-Pacific region. By the end of 2020, 25% of the globally confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 20% of reported deaths caused by the pandemic were in the Asia Pacific region¹². To add to the vulnerabilities of young people and other marginalised communities that were already substantial in health sectors, the impact of COVID-19 has been even more damaging, with even the strongest healthcare systems around the world struggling to keep up. As hospitals and healthcare centres continue to be overwhelmed, treatments for marginalised communities, such as young people, women LGBTIQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities, have been pushed to the side, leaving them exposed and vulnerable. Accessing safe abortion services and related sexual and reproductive health services has become even more difficult for women and girls. When it comes to LGBTIQ persons, COVID-19 has caused the de-prioritisation of health services such as HIV testing and treatment, hormonal treatment and gender affirming treatments for trans individuals, hitting LGBTIQ+ youth the hardest¹³.

In terms of employment, youth in the Asia Pacific are being hit harder than adults in the immediate COVID-19 crisis and will also have to bear more long-term economic and social costs. Nearly half of young workers in the region are employed in the four sectors hit hardest by the crisis and are therefore facing a greater digital divide, and more job losses and labour market disruptions than adults due to COVID-19¹⁴. Coupled with the suspension of schools and difficulties of accessing proper online learning in the region, the transition of youth into the workforce will be heavily impacted.

The impact of COVID-19 on the environment has been daunting. While the levels of air pollution levels and carbon dioxide emissions initially lessened due to global travel restrictions in the beginning of the pandemic, they are beginning to rise once again. Furthermore, the levels of medical waste and usage of single-use products in the region have increased substantially over the course of the pandemic¹⁵. Finally, recovery measures put in place by governments across the region give little to no consideration of the long term impact the pandemic will have on climate change.

We cannot ignore the detrimental impact that COVID-19 has had and this call to action highlights the ways in which we are being left even more vulnerable. We urge governments, international



organisations, United Nations agencies, development partners, funding agencies, and other duty bearers to address the following priority issues.

Health and Our Wellbeing

Our Right To Health and Quality of Life

- The health and well-being of young people must be understood from a **holistic, rights-based lens** that considers **mental health and emotional well-being** given that young adults' social, emotional and mental well-being has been **impacted by the pandemic** and the trauma faced at this developmental stage may have long-term consequences across their lifespan.
- In the face of the pandemic, there is a need to re-emphasise and ensure that health, including **sexual and reproductive health and right of young people**, is not side-lined, including but not limited to adolescent pregnancies, maternal mortalities and morbidities, abortion, and other issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights; communicable and non-communicable diseases; **universal health-care coverage and access to medicines and vaccinations**¹⁶.
- **Disaggregated data needs to be made available to create evidence around health issues** faced by diverse communities, including but not limited to, youth groups, such as adolescents, marginalised women, LGBTIQ people, people with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, people living with and affected by HIV, young sex workers, and marginalised castes. These include taking into consideration the **impact of COVID-19** but also other pre-existing barriers to health and well-being affected by gender inequality, sexual, gender-based and psychological violence poverty, climate change, environment, disasters, conflict, food and nutrition security, housing, sanitation, access to potable and drinking water, and politicisation of religion.
- Institutional mechanisms should be in place to **end stigma and discrimination in accessing health services and information** for all including **digital/telehealth access** to such services and

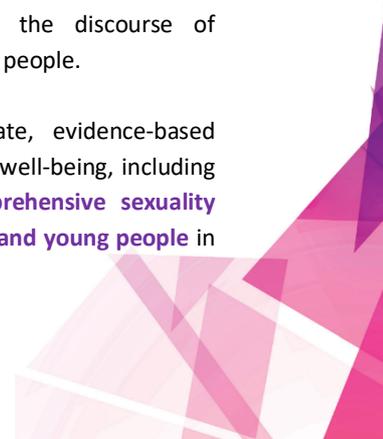
information that is available to all, including young persons with disabilities. **Context-sensitive and equitable technological innovations** should be promoted to advance the health and well-being of all.

- There is a continued lack of a commitment to measure **comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)**. CSE implementation is still a challenge and is still a topic of neglect in schools, as well as out of school CSE. Surveys have shown that the internet and online discussions with peers was a more widely used information source for most youth in the region¹⁷.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

We urge Member States in the region to take the following actions:

1. Ensure the **quality, affordability and availability of vaccines and health services and information for all young people**, including those from marginalised communities as the availability of vaccines, medicines, health technologies and health therapies is an essential dimension of the right to health, the right to development and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Everyone is entitled, **on an equal footing with others, to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health**¹⁸.
2. **Re-visit current health policies and re-draft them with shifting contexts taking into account the intersectional identities of young people** such as ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, class, disabilities and their socio-economic status influenced by factors such as the pandemic, migration, natural disaster and climate change, etc.
3. Adopt a multi-pronged approach bringing in different actors (including CSOs, journalists, medical professionals, faith leaders and community members) in the discourse of **normalising SRHR** of young people.
4. Provide access to accurate, evidence-based information on health and well-being, including **life skill-based and comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents and young people** in



formal and non-formal education settings, as well as in out-of-school and workplace settings. This needs to recognise and cater to the evolving capacities of young people, and be scientifically evidence-based, context-specific, gender-responsive, and disability-friendly. Invest in the **training of teachers, and health service providers** to sensitise them on the fact that Comprehensive Sexuality Education is important for young people's health, wellbeing and education and that it promotes gender equality and the prevention of violence against women and girls.

5. Provide and improve access to **youth-friendly health services, including for mental health counselling and sexual and reproductive health**, that are confidential, non-judgmental, non-discriminatory, and are affordable. Services must include access to contraception, safe abortion, reproductive cancer prevention, and gender transition-related services. Programmes need to be based on a human rights framework, including the right to be free from discrimination, coercion, and violence, as well as on principles of bodily integrity, dignity, equality, respect for diversity, and affirmative sexuality. **Make online and offline SRHR services accessible and affordable** to young people of all backgrounds by bringing such services into public health systems.
6. Allocate a minimum of 15% of the **GDP for health**¹⁹, (with an adequate proportion for young people based on demography) and to apply learnings from the COVID-19 situation to ensure **contingency planning for health services for future pandemic/emergency scenarios**.

Our Right to Employment

Young People and Decent Work For All

- The youth bulge in the Asia-Pacific, resulting in the demographic dividend, is still under-utilised for this region. Only 20% of the region's workers are aged between 15 - 24, and these young people account for almost half the Asia-Pacific's jobless. The **lack of new, decent employment opportunities** risks the social, economic and

social growth of the region.

- **Gender gaps in employment** exist and female participation in the labour force in 2018 ranged from 60.1% in East Asia at the top end of the spectrum to only 25.9% at the bottom end in South Asia. **A large percentage of women (including trans women) work in the informal sector** where wages are typically lower without social protection. In developing Asia, the **gender wage gap** still stands at 75% and women spend 80 % time in Asia and the Pacific doing **unpaid care work** which is 4.1 times more time than men²⁰. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour and modern slavery, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors²¹.
- Other trends in relation to unemployment in the region include **job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change-induced crises; increased financial support burden on young people due to demographic shifts** (1 in 2 youth will need to support an elderly person by 2030); and high risk of automation and resulting reduction in the job market²². COVID-19 and lockdowns have also led to work being shifted to an online modality favouring people with higher levels of education who learn skills faster, and favouring those who have access to technological devices. This **digital inequality has reinforced the existing social inequalities**.
- Young people do not have access to adequate **career guidance, counselling and soft-skills training** which are only available through small scale government led initiatives and in a limited number of educational institutions.
- The number of **working children** is another concern in the Asia Pacific as it is by far the largest in the world and represents 18.8% of the 650 million 5–14-year-olds in the region. Progress to eliminate child labour is inadequate compared to other regions²³.
- Despite the relatively high economic growth in some countries in the region and their progression from least developed countries to developing countries, a significant portion of their **populations are living in poverty**, affecting a large percentage of youth and contributing to the socio-economic inequalities and gender inequities in the region²⁴.
- A **high percentage of NEET (Youth being Not in Education, Employment or Training)** is an issue



for most countries (ranging from 15 - 42%) in the region and the age group of 15-24 years represents one of the most at-risk groups²⁵. An ILO study²⁶ shows that around 269 million new jobs could be created if investment in education, health and social work were doubled by 2030.

- Urbanisation is led by East Asia followed by Southeast Asia, whereas South Asia still remains the least urbanised sub-region. In the latter, the majority of young people will remain in the rural setting even by 2035²⁷ and **young people employed in rural settings** are more likely to be employed under poor conditions²⁸.
- Young persons living with HIV and those with non-binary sexual orientations and gender identities continue to face greater discrimination in accessing decent work and employment opportunities. **SOGIESC-based discriminations** include denial of jobs, hostile work environments, and workplace bullying and harassment²⁹. **Women refugees and migrant workers** face the double burden of discrimination due to their gender and social status, and are the most vulnerable group in the migrant and refugee constituency in all countries in the region³⁰.
- For **young persons with disabilities**, availability of jobs with accessibility features and options continues to be a challenge. Barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities range from a lack of adequate and accessible infrastructure, including information and communication services; lack of accessible transportation; and employer's preference for candidates without disabilities.
- **Policy, programming, and budgetary interventions** around youth and employment are not adequate or inclusive and **lack of reliable data/statistics**. Coupled with neglect towards the most marginalised, this affects young women, trans women, young persons with non-binary SOGIE, people living with HIV, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees the hardest.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

We urge Member States in the region to take the following actions:

1. Invest in **career guidance, counselling, out of school youth assistance programs, and innovation of the provincial/local government/ministry of youth led units. Soft-**

skill training, technical and vocational training, and education is required to prepare youth for the labour market with the requisite skills, attitudes, behaviours and personal qualities that enable youth, from all walks of life and in all their diversity to effectively navigate the changing environment, work with others, perform well and achieve their goals³¹.

2. Initiatives to **enable wider digital literacy must be increased to close the digital gaps** for communities that have been adversely affected during COVID-19 where work has now shifted online.
3. Increased **access to finance and enterprise support complete with a wider range of business development services** are effective financial instruments that can lead to new job creation and a favourable environment for start-ups and entrepreneurship for young people living in the community level. Support must also be given to young people and migrant workers affected by COVID-19.
4. Provide **legal protection for all workers against workplace discrimination and abuse** on the grounds of SOGIE, gender, disability, and migratory status. Laws and policies should be strengthened to eliminate **slavery, child labour and forced labour and exploitation of women and children** in all sectors and ensure **remuneration and equal pay for equal work as well as social security benefits like health insurance, maternity benefits access to decent work** opportunities for all.
5. Invest in **research and collection of disaggregated data** to make sure that policymaking and programmatic interventions are informed and address the intersectionalities and marginalisation to protect young people's right to employment that enables **social, economic and political inclusion** irrespective of sex, disability, race, origin, religion and economic status.
6. Urge the government to invest in the **national level social security net programmes** to address NEET among other issues. Also, States should take care to ensure that labour laws are compliant with the International Labor Organisation (ILO) Conventions and the standards laid out in business and human rights to ensure **decent working conditions for young people** in all sectors and ensuring **fairness in hiring practices, mentorship, communications, and advancement potential** and promote inclusive workplace culture to **close the gender**

gap in the workforce.

7. Put in place plans/schemes that allow for subsidy for loans for unemployed youth who want to start their own business/ventures. The private sector should also **foster youth entrepreneurship and increase financial investment** in youth-led and small businesses and enterprises, and work closely with the Government to encourage an active labour market. Use **public-private partnership as a tool for decent growth** in the economy.
8. **Youth centered interventions and opportunities** (paid internships, work placements, youth leadership and business training, early career development opportunities and youth oriented entrepreneurship skills development programmes) must also be encouraged so that they can mobilise their skills and knowledge.

Climate Change and Our Environment

Young People and the Climate Crisis

- **The Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world**³². Due to its geography of extensive coastlines, low-lying territories, and many small island states, the region is highly susceptible to rising sea levels and extreme weather.
- Changes in the oceans are particularly critical in the region. The Indo-Asia Pacific's coasts are highly vulnerable to sea level rise, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers³³. The **rapid depletion of fish stocks is impacting food security across the region**, which is being exacerbated by rising temperatures. Furthermore, island ecosystems are highly vulnerable. Coral reefs in particular have been adversely affected due to industrial contaminations.
- **Climate literacy is not a priority** in public and private institutions. There is little to no awareness of the impact of climate crises on our lives, or how to deal with climate disasters, and there is even a lack of clarity on these issues within governmental institutions as well.
- Climate change and natural disasters create additional economic constraints for families, which in turn creates an **increase of the risk of gender-based sexual violence**³⁴. This then also leads to an **increase in the risk of early and forced child marriage for girls** as parents aim to provide more economic stability for their

families.

- The **use of single-use plastics**, especially from food packaging, as well as the **production of fast fashion** in mass-producing clothing using exploitative labour, and environmentally-harmful processes is a big problem in the region. Countries in the region that are some of the largest garment exporters in the world also have some of the highest water pollution levels due to the fast fashion industry³⁵.
- COVID-19 has caused a **significant strain on waste management chains** that were already weak to begin with, and nearly caused them to collapse in some cities. 154 to 280 tons of more medical waste per day were produced in some big cities in the region³⁶. Furthermore, 85% of countries in the Asia Pacific that have a recovery plan for COVID-19 have little to no environmental considerations³⁷.
- There is a **lack of inclusive participation of marginalised communities** such as young people, women, rural and indigenous populations, people with disabilities, and transgender communities when it comes to creating "clean-energy" and sustainable solutions and policies to the climate crisis.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

We urge Member States in the region to take the following actions:

1. Building **community empowerment programmes and creating wider awareness about climate change** on how to cope with extreme weather. Raising awareness about natural hazards, planning disaster drills, and installing early warning systems can help prepare people ahead of time and save their lives and livelihoods in the face of disasters.
2. Adding **curriculum about natural resources and climate change to schools** at the primary, secondary, and tertiary level. This should be done so that the children and youth will understand the importance of natural resources, agriculture, and climate.
3. Ensuring **meaningful engagement of marginalised youth** -- young women, rural and indigenous youth, LGBTIQ+ youth, and youth with disabilities -- in policy, decision-making and monitoring related to climate change. This can be achieved by **investing in their capacity building and ensuring representation** of their

voices at the local and national level or by **creating youth councils or youth parliament committees for climate change.**

4. Investment in the **production, affordability and availability of biodegradable materials** to curb the usage of single-use plastics and other materials that are harmful to the environment.
5. Recognising **the detrimental effects of climate change in relation to health and human rights**, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially among young people, women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ communities. **Monitoring the effects of climate change and disasters on issues such as early and forced child marriage** is also crucial.
6. Ensuring that **the national stimulus and response strategies to the COVID-19 pandemic take the environmental dimension into account.** Recovery measures that work on accelerating a green transition in the future need to be highlighted and prioritised.

Conclusion

Young People at the Forefront of COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resilience

Although the Asia Pacific region has made achievements in socioeconomic development, the progress has been uneven across and within countries and severely set back by the onset of COVID-19. The above document brings in a youth perspective to the status of progress in achieving the SDGs and highlights areas in need of attention in relation to SDGs 3, 8 and 13 (good health and wellbeing, decent work and economic growth, and climate change). Each of these SDGs have been analysed through the lens of other related and cross-cutting SDGs especially SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 17 (partnership and goals).

In order to get the Asia Pacific region back on track, the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery efforts must be carried out to stimulate equity, resilience, sustainability, and progress towards the SDGs by emphasising the need for research to advance gender equity, engagement with marginalised populations, ensuring decent work, preventing a digital divide, tackling intersectoral challenges around healthcare, and informing global governance reforms. An intersectional, human rights and gender responsive analysis is crucial for sustainable COVID-19 resilience on a global scale - this is the only way in which recovery efforts can address the impact of the pandemic on all diverse and marginalised

populations. The inclusion of young people in all our diversity the building of these recovery efforts is crucial for creating a more resilient and sustainable future.

We believe this regional call to action, and the national level call to action briefs³⁸, will enable our governments to strengthen their political commitment and allocate adequate resources, to enable us, the youth of the Asia and the Pacific, to make the most effective transformation of the world into a better place for all.

ACRONYMS

APFSD - Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

CSE - Comprehensive Sexuality Education

CSO - Civil Society Organisation

GBV - Gender-Based Violence

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

ICCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

ICPD - International Conference on Population and Development

ILO - International Labour Organisation

LGBTIQ+ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer

NEET - Not in Education, Employment, or Training

SDG - Sustainable Development Goal

SOGIESC - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics

SRHR - Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

organised with the support of:



Notes & References

¹ The call to action was developed by a dedicated drafting team who worked on behalf of the larger group to capture the key discussion points and demands put forward by participants in the forum mostly derived from their personal experiences. The drafting team consisted of the following participants: Alexis Sebote, Danish Tariq, Dicky Aditiya Kurniawan, Fayeq Ibrahim, Harish Lama, Ika Nindyas Ranitadewi, Joshua Dilawar, Kashvi Chandok, Mahmuda Samanjar Chowdhury, Nguyen Thin Ngoc Tien, Noor Imran, Pallawish Kumar, Phin Savey, Qandeel Naeem, Situ Shrestha, Sufiya Khatun, Trystancius Sean Matthieu, and Venicia Agnes Fernandes. The team was led by Nawmi Naz Chowdhury (ARROW) and Evelynne Gomez (ARROW), with review support from Sangeet Kayastha (Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center), Ayeshwini Lama (Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center), and Legee Tamir (YouthLEAD), and with overall supervision from Sai Jyothirmai Racherla (ARROW).

² The countries represented in this Youth Forum are: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, and Vietnam.

³ This document also took into account previous statements made by young people at previous fora, such as the past APFSDs in 2016 and 2017, the Yangon Declaration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Forum, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Youth Charter, the Small Islands Developing States Framework on Youth, the ICPD Review: Global Youth Forum Bali, the 6th Asian Pacific Population Conference (APPC) Youth and CSO Statements, and the World Humanitarian Summit Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action.

⁴ Such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) and its Optional Protocols, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD POA), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health, the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of Financing for Development (FFD), the Berlin Urban Agenda for Young People, the Yogyakarta Principles, Standards to be met under Business and Human Rights, United Nations Security Council (UNSCR) 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security, UNSCR 2250 on youth, peace, and security, and the World Association for Sexual Health Declaration of Sexual Rights, amongst others.

⁵ Youth Co Lab, ILO, and UNDP. "Youth Volunteerism and Skills Development for Economic Empowerment in the Asia-Pacific Region." 2018. Accessed at: https://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/democratic_governance/youth-volunteerism-n-skills-development-for-economic-empowerment.html

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⁷ ILO, 2017a

⁸ ESCAP Sustainable Business Network. "Youth and Mental Health in Asia Pacific." Accessed at: <https://esbn.unescap.org/ru/node/7041>

⁹ SES. "Why Closing the Digital Divide in Asia is Important." September 24, 2020. Accessed at: <https://www.ses.com/why-closing-digital-divide-asia-important>

¹⁰ UNDP Asia Pacific. "Climate change in Asia and the Pacific. What's at stake?" November 28, 2019. Accessed at: <https://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/climate-change-in-asia-and-the-pacific.html>

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¹² UNESCAP. "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021." 2021. Accessed at: [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific%20SDG%20Progress%20Report%202021.pdf)

¹³ OutRight International. "VULNERABILITY AMPLIFIED: THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON LGBTQI+ PEOPLE." May 6, 2020. Accessed at: <https://outrightinternational.org/content/vulnerability-amplified-impact-covid-19-pandemic-lgbtqi-people>

¹⁴ UNESCAP. "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021." 2021. Accessed at: [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific%20SDG%20Progress%20Report%202021.pdf)

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Extreme vaccine inequity could cost the global economy more than \$9 trillion dollars in 2021. Source: Lambert, Jonathan. "Global inequity in COVID-19 vaccination is more than a moral problem." ScienceNews. February 26, 2021. Accessed at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/covid-19-global-inequity-vaccines-deaths-economy-pandemic>

¹⁷ IPPF. "Comprehensive Sexuality Education interactive report." Accessed at: <https://www.ippf.org/resources/cse-report>

¹⁸ Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), General Comment No. 25 (2020) on science and economic, social and cultural rights (article 15 (1) (b), (2), (3) and (4) of the Covenant), para. 70.

¹⁹ WHO. "Spending targets for health: no magic number." 2016. Accessed at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250048/WHO-HIS-HGF-HFWorkingPaper-16.1->

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