



# Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum 2025

## Call for Session Abstracts

### Introduction

The [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd) (APFSD) is an annual, inclusive, intergovernmental forum to support the follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level. This regional platform aims to inform, empower, and support Asia-Pacific countries (especially least-developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States) in their efforts to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets set out by the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned. The Forum convenes United Nations system bodies, Member States, international organisations, civil society, and other stakeholders whose reflections feed into and inform the 2025 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, which reviews sustainable development progress at the global level.<sup>1</sup>

The 12th APFSD will be organised from 25 to 28 February 2025 under the theme: “**Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific**” at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

ARROW and the regional co-convenors, Youth LEAD, and YPEER Asia-Pacific have been organising the annual **APFSD Youth Forum since 2017**. Since 2022, we are joined by regional youth networks, such as Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) and Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG). The APFSD Youth Forum engages 400-500 adolescents and young people in the age group of 13-30 years from across Asia and the Pacific region to develop National, Sub-Regional and Regional Youth Call to Action.

The APFSD Youth Forum 2025 will be a three day event from **19-21 February, 2025** where participants will assess the gaps and challenges in the implementation of SDGs 3,5,8,14 and 17, share best practices and find evidence-based solutions to the 2030 agenda. The theme for Day 1 will be gender, with the focus on Goal 3 and 5 while Day 2's theme will be climate and discussions will be on Goal 8, and 14 with Goal 17 as cross cutting theme across all the goals.

The forum will curate expert panels, and parallel sessions that includes youth-led Best Practices Forum (BPFs) and workshops. We therefore invite young people, youth-led or youth serving

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd12>



organisations, governments from across the Asia Pacific to submit session abstracts aligned with SDGs 3,5,8,14, and 17. Please mention clearly with which goal your session aligns the most although submission for cross cutting goals are also highly encouraged.

All BPFs and workshops must be designed and led by youths. In the BPFs, young people will have the space to share about evidence and best practices relevant to the five SDG goals under review. It could include (not limited to) research, conceptual frameworks, programs, innovation projects, and advocacy results relevant to the issues aligned with goals under review. Storytelling methods and Informal discussions are encouraged where participants have more space to engage.

Workshops will be organised simultaneously by young people on different topics. This could include skill-building and participatory activities involving arts and creative expression through visual art, theatre, film, mural, dance, music, collective craft or artmaking, etc.

We are looking forward to abstracts submissions on **climate action, gender equality and human rights, health and wellbeing, young people's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), decent work, and partnerships to realise SDGs in the Asia and Pacific.**

**Please note that the abstracts submissions are not limited to research but can also include programme implementation on the ground, initiatives focused on young people and initiatives led by young people.** Young people are encouraged to apply and share their work on the ground.

Abstracts can be submitted online through google form in English. All sessions will be for 60 minutes.

The preparatory resources by session organisers should be shared with the organising team two weeks ahead of the APFSD Youth Forum upon selection. The session organiser is responsible for documentation of their own sessions and will have to share the session summary report no later than two weeks after the forum.

### **Submission guidelines**

- All abstracts must be submitted online through google form no later than 25th December, 2024. The link to the form is <https://forms.gle/siaapkimZorHYkCs8>
- All forms should be submitted in English.
- Please also prepare an abstract in the pdf file to be uploaded with the google form. It should have the following details:
  1. Session Title
  2. Name and Affiliation

3. Session Introduction (should state rationale, objectives and aligning SDGs)
  4. Methodology
  5. Outcome/ Implications
- All the abstract submitters, moderators, session facilitators, and speakers must also fill out the APFSD Youth Forum Application Form (<https://forms.gle/65XDDMXmTWS7jS4q6>) no later than 25th December, 2024.
  - The results of the selection of abstracts will be announced on the week of 8th January, 2025. Due to the volume of applications that we receive we are unable to inform individually on the status of abstracts that are not selected.
  - Selection of successful abstracts will also take into account the balance across themes and balance in the diversity of young people and organisations across the region.
  - Only completed abstracts, containing all information requested, conforming with the formats above, will be considered.

For further enquiries, please contact [apfsdyouthforum@arrow.org.my](mailto:apfsdyouthforum@arrow.org.my).