

Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum 2026

Call for Session Abstracts

Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (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 2026 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, which reviews sustainable development progress at the global level.

ARROW and the regional co-convenors, Youth LEAD, and YPEER Asia-Pacific Center (YPEER AP) have been organising the annual APFSD Youth Forum since 2017. Since 2022, we are joined by regional youth networks, such as the Major Group for Children and Youth and Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) have also joined in 2025. 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 will be held in a hybrid modality from **18-20 February, 2026** with the theme, **“Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for young people in all their diversity.”**

In alignment with the goals under review in HLPF 2026 and APFSD 2026, the youth forum will focus on the review, gaps and challenges of the SDGs under review along with 3 additional crosscutting goals:

- Goal 3 (Health and Well being);
- Goal 5 (Gender equality);
- Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation);
- Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy);
- Goal 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure);
- Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities);
- Goal 13 (Climate Change); and

- Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

The overarching theme for the youth forum is **“Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for all”**.

The APFSD Youth Forum 2025 will be a three-day event where participants will assess the gaps and challenges regarding SDGs 3,5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 17, share best practices and find innovative solutions to the 2030 agenda. The theme for **Day 1 will be Climate**, with the focus on Goal 6, 7 and 13 while **Day 2’s theme will be Innovation and Sustainable Communities** and discussions will be on Goal 9, and 11 with Goal 3, 5, and 17 as a cross cutting theme across all the goals.

Each main session will be followed by a youth session, fully designed and led by children and youths. This is the session where children and young people will have the space to share about evidence-based innovative approaches relevant to the SDG goals under review. This may include research, programs, projects, innovative methodologies and advocacy results relevant to the issues aligned with the Goals under review. **Please do not submit abstracts for programmes/ projects/ researchers that have not been conducted or implemented yet. Submissions for only implemented ones will be accepted.**

Youth Session shall have a strong component of capacity strengthening especially focusing on Data Driven Advocacy (DDA) for SDGs.

We are looking forward to abstracts submissions relevant to the goals under review **[Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation); Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy); Goal 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure); Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities); Goal 13 (Climate Change)]** with intersections with **Goal 3 (Health and Well being); Goal 5 (Gender equality); and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals)**.

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

Abstracts can be submitted online through google form in English.

The preparatory resources by session organisers should be shared with the organising team three weeks ahead of the APFSD Youth Forum upon selection.

Submission guidelines

- All abstracts must be submitted online through google form no later than November 3, 2025. The link to the form is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXffcpPNmeg-4xH1BcQdAdK_idE7RYVcp_o4O17cFHqVaf7HA/viewform?usp=header
- All forms should be submitted in English.
- Please also prepare an abstract in the pdf file to be uploaded with the google form. I

should have the following details:

1. Abstract Title
 2. Name and Affiliation
 3. Introduction (should state rationale, objectives and aligning SDGs- 100 words)
 4. Methodology (100 words)
 5. Findings/ Outcome/ Implications (100 words)
- All the abstract submitters must also fill out the APFSD Youth Forum Application Form (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQukSr_dCAf47MfaVMJ4c26X6X1MmscrpF2DJC_el6PflvYg/viewform?usp=header) no later than November 5, 2025.
 - The results of the selection of abstracts will be announced by the 30th of November, 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.
 - Please note that we are unable to provide funding to all the selected abstract presenters. Some presenters shall be asked to participate on a self funding basis.

For further enquiries, please contact apfsdyouthforum@arrow.org.my.