



Call for participation Major Groups and other Stakeholders

The **Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)** is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support 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 2024 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, which reviews sustainable development progress at the global level.

The 11th APFSD will be organized from **20-23 February** under the theme: ***“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”*** at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

In alignment with the focus of the 2024 HLPF, the Forum will assess progress on the SDGs under review: **Goal 1 (No poverty); Goal 2 (Zero hunger); Goal 13 (Climate action); Goal 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals)**. The Forum will also support the presentation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) at the 2024 HLPF.

Since its inaugural session in 2014, the APFSD has brought governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders together to prepare for the HLPF and to support regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As high levels of commitment and proactive action by major groups and other stakeholders in this region has enhanced the quality of dialogue at the APFSD, the HLPF and other global forums and strengthened action on the 2030 Agenda across the globe, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to contribute to the regional development agenda through the following events:

- ***Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD):***

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions will discuss the theme of the 11th APFSD and forward-looking priorities, actions, and initiatives in the lead up to the Summit of the Future; regional progress and opportunities for achieving the SDGs; as well the Voluntary National Reviews. Major Groups and other stakeholders are invited to participate in these discussions and make statements according to standard intergovernmental procedures (**max. 3 minutes**).

Round Tables

SDG Round Tables on each of the goals under in-depth review at the 2024 HLPF will be organised as part of the APFSD, featuring multistakeholder discussions. The aim of the Round Tables is to bring together different experts and perspectives to reflect on the status of progress and priorities to accelerate SDG implementation and jointly develop recommendations on challenges, priority actions, and regional partnerships to accelerate progress of SDG implementation and attainment. Outcomes of the Round Tables will be presented in the APFSD Plenary and will feed into the APFSD’s chair’s summary.

Side Events

To complement the programme, the APFSD Secretariat invites member States, major groups and stakeholders, United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental organisations to organise virtual, hybrid or in-person side events to share their vision, promote ideas, and spark action. Held outside the official programme, side events are expected to deepen the discussion on the theme of the 2024 APFSD, on the SDGs under review, and on VNRs. A call for side events is available on the [11th APFSD website](#).

Exhibitions

Booths will be set up at the UNCC to promote interactive engagement, knowledge-sharing, and partnership-building. Exhibitors will be invited to display posters, publications, banners, and other materials to promote informal networking and information-sharing. A call for exhibitions is available on the [11th APFSD website](#).

- ***Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum 2023:***

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development Youth Forum (APFSD Youth) brings together **youth-led and youth serving organisations** representing diverse age-groups of adolescents and youth, **under the age of 30**, to discuss and deliberate on the theme of the 11th APFSD, as a preparatory meeting for the APFSD.

Information on the APFSD Youth Forum coming soon

- ***Asia-Pacific People’s Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD):***

The Asia-Pacific People’s Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD) will be organised by the Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism, as a preparatory meeting for the APFSD. It provides an inclusive space for discussion and sharing among civil society organisations and peoples’ movements in the region on their positions on key sustainable development issues.

Civil society organisations seeking to attend the 11th APFSD **must attend this preparatory forum**.

Information on the APPFSD coming soon

Target group



We welcome applications from those who are based in Asia and the Pacific and especially those who:

- Have in-depth expertise and experience related to the theme of the 2024 APFSD; and are engaged in the 2030 Agenda and SDGs-related processes.
- Are members of grassroots constituencies, and/or working directly with grassroots constituencies.
- Work in ESCAP-member countries that will present a [Voluntary National Review](#) at the HLPF in 2024¹.

Those interested in attending the APFSD should:

- Be accredited with the United Nations system (consultative or similar status with the UN including [ECOSOC](#), CSD Roster, UNFCCC, FAO, ILO, UNEP² and UNDP or other UN-related organisations)³ – unless they are part of their national delegations.
- Be prepared to actively participate in preparing statements and other contributions to the meeting, coordinating with other CSOs, and articulating joint CSO positions.
- Participate in the 2024 People's Forum.

How to apply:

Complete the application [here](#)

Deadline to apply: **10 November 2023 (12 midnight Thailand time)**

Other key points:

- **Participation in the People's Forum:**
Participation in the APPFSD is required for those seeking to attend the official sessions of the APFSD. However, the People's Forum and the Youth Forum can also be attended by those who do not wish to attend the APFSD (subject to space limitations and selection process).
- **Complete applications:**
Only complete applications will be considered.
- **Funding:**
Funds will be made available for a limited number of applicants. Please indicate in your application if you are seeking funding. The ability to self-fund does not guarantee a place in the APFSD or any other event.
- **Representation:**

¹2024 VNR countries from Asia-Pacific: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lao P.D.R., F.S. Micronesia, Georgia, Nepal, Palau.

²A list of Organizations accredited to ECOSOC is available at

<https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2F2019%2FINF%2F5&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False> ;

<https://esango.un.org/civilsociety/displayAdvancedSearch.do?method=search&sessionCheck=false>

³ Organisations without formal accreditation with the United Nations could be accepted provided that they can indicate in the application form the name of an organisation with ECOSOC accreditation that would be willing to support its application (proof to be provided prior to confirmation of participation).

Due to a high volume of applications, no more than 2 people may be considered and accepted from the same organisation. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate internally to identify at maximum 2 applicants to represent organisational perspectives prior to applying.

Useful links:

- On the regional process and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development:
 - APFSD 2024 (and previous sessions): <https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd11>
- On the global process and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development:
 - Overview: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>
 - Major groups and other stakeholders HLPF Coordination Mechanism: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpf>
 - Voluntary National Reviews <https://hlpf.un.org/vnrs>
- On Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)
 - AP-RCEM: <http://www.asiapacificrcem.org/>

Contacts:

APFSD Secretariat

- Ms. **Sara Libera Zanetti** (escap-apfsd@un.org)

AP-RCEM Co-chairs:

- Ms. **Olga Djanaeva**, Central Asia Sub-Regional Constituency Focal Point, ALGA, Kyrgyzstan (ngoalga@gmail.com)
- Mr. **Ajay Kumar Jha**, Farmers's Constituency Focal Point, CECOEDCON, India (k.ajay.j@gmail.com)
- Ms. **Joy Hernandez**, Trade Unions and Workers' Constituency Focal Point, ITUC-AP, Singapore (joy@ituc-ap.org)

APFSD Youth Forum:

- Ms. **Sai Jyothirmai Racherla**, Deputy Executive Director, ARROW (apfsdyouthforum@arrow.org.my)