



Guide for Major Groups and other Stakeholders

Background

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2024 (APFSD) will be convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 20-23 February 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. It will be the eleventh regional preparatory meeting for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and it will be preceded by the **APFSD-Youth Forum on 15 –17 February 2024** in Bangkok (hybrid format) and the **Asia-Pacific People’s Forum on Sustainable Development (People’s Forum) on 18-19 February 2024** in Bangkok.

The 11th APFSD will be organized 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**”. In alignment with the focus of the 2024 HLPF, the Forum will assess progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (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.

The 11th APFSD will engage member States, United Nations and other institutions, and major groups and other stakeholders in dialogue on: (1) regional perspectives on the implementation, follow-up and review for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and (2) accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific. The APFSD will feed into the 2024 HLPF and generate momentum in the lead up to the Summit of the Future by providing a regional platform to identify priorities and solutions for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in the remaining years to 2030.

The participation of Major Groups and other Stakeholders¹ (MGoS) in the APFSD will benefit from the deliberations stemming from the People’s Forum, organized by the Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), in collaboration with the ESCAP, as well as from the APFSD-Youth Forum.

Basis for participation

¹Resolution 67/290 adopted by the UN General Assembly in July 2013 on the “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development” invites the participation of the nine major groups of stakeholders into the formal structure of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. The nine major groups are: Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous People; Non-Governmental Organizations; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; and Farmers.

Participation of MGoS is based on the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational arrangements for the HLPF, which stipulate that the representatives of MGoS shall be allowed:

- To attend all official meetings of the Forum.
- To have access to all official information and documents.
- To intervene in official meetings.
- To submit documents and present written and oral contributions.
- To make recommendations.
- To organize side events, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.²

Accreditation

Priority in providing 11th APFSD accreditation to MGoS to the meeting is determined based on the following criteria:

- Expertise in sustainable development, and in the Goals under in-depth review at the 2024 HLPF.
- Experience in engaging in follow-up and review processes at the national, regional and/or global level.
- Engagement with current national SDG accountability processes and representation of countries that will conduct voluntary national review in 2024.
- Representation and leadership in grassroots and marginalized sectors.
- ECOSOC and other UN accreditation.
- Participation in the Asia-Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development; and
- The need to ensure balance in relation to thematic and geographic representation, scope of mandate, and gender.

Applications to participate received through the [call](#) have been reviewed by a Selection Committee nominated through the AP-RCEM and the APFSD Secretariat. Applicants are advised to ensure that confirmation of acceptance has been received before making travel arrangements.

The APFSD Secretariat reserves the right to revoke accreditation at any point.

Coordination

Effective participation requires active coordination among representatives of the MGoS. The AP-RCEM will facilitate coordination for CSOs) and representation of local authorities will be coordinated by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG-ASPAC).

- **The facilitator** of each stakeholder group will be responsible for:
 - Coordinating all formal inputs to the process.
 - Liaison with the APFSD Secretariat.
 - Coordinating formal statements (working with other groups as appropriate).

² A/RES/67/290 Para. 15

- **Representatives** of MGoS may be identified to deliver formal statements and to speak on behalf of the group as needed.

The designation of any representative from MGoS or facilitator will not have any bearing on other processes or events.

Key entry points for major groups and other stakeholders

The key entry points for MGoS at the 11th APFSD are shown in the Annex.

- **Formal interventions - statements**

After panelists/presenters/discussants have spoken, delegates, including MGoS, will be invited to address the meeting and make statements. Statements and commentaries may be delivered from the seats designated for MGoS.

Those **requesting a speaking slot must fill a form provided by the APFSD Secretariat and return it via email by Wednesday 14 February** Statements should be delivered on a collective basis (either focusing on a limited number of specific themes, or one per major/stakeholder group).

The **time limit of 3 minutes** should be strictly observed.

The practice of the HLPF for country and stakeholder statements will be followed, which allows for stakeholder statements to be interspersed with country statements. Ministerial level participants will be given the floor first.

- **Review of the Report and Chairs' Summary**

The Report and Chair's summary will be circulated on **23 February by 12:00 p.m.** A review of the Report will take place in the last session that day.

Briefing session

A briefing session for CSOs will be conducted by the AP-RCEM on **20 February 2024 at 08:00 a.m. in Conference Room 1 on the second floor of the United Nations Conference Centre.** Participation is encouraged for all participants.

Registration for the APFSD

MGoS are asked to register on **Indico** at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/> under **category**

2: “**Registration for IGO, NGO, CSO**” **by 6 February** to ensure that they can collect their badges for the APFSD. Photo ID is required to collect the badges.

Registration instructions: [see here](#)

- Once the registration page has been opened for “**Registration for IGO, NGO, CSO,**” participants must select their organization type and name. If their organization does not appear in the dropdown menu, they must select non-ESCAP meeting participant and write out their organization's name.
- Next, they must fill in all mandatory fields and provide a clear headshot photo for their meeting badge.
- Participants will also need to attach a letter of credentials from their organization communicating the name(s) and designation(s) of the representatives. In place of a letter of credentials, CSOs can upload a copy of their acceptance letter received from the APFSD secretariat, UN registrants can upload a copy of their badge, and SDG roundtable invitees can upload a copy of their invitation.

*Please note that a maximum of **two participants** may represent their organization. Otherwise, registrants may attend open side/associated events by registering in the category “Registration for Others” after registering for an event via the organizer's registration page.

The information note with logistics information can be reviewed at:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd11>

Access to the meeting and seating

All sessions of the 11th APFSD are open to accredited and registered participants unless otherwise specifically noted.

Seating for MGoS will be indicated in the plenary hall. Seats with microphone access will be allocated. The chairs must be occupied by representatives and/or facilitators designated by the group and may be occupied by rotation if desired and as agreed among the group members. Others will find seating in the general area designated for major groups and other stakeholders.

Accessibility support

Accessibility support will be provided based on the assessment of participant needs during the registration process. If you have not yet signaled your needs, please be in touch with the APFSD Secretariat. All official documents will be available on the 11th APFSD [event page](#) in accessible e-pub format. All plenary sessions will have sign language interpretation.

Meeting room facilities

Conference Room 1 on the second floor of the UNCC will be provided for use by CSOs for informal meetings. If overflow seating is necessary for the opening session from 9-12 am on the 20th of

February, Conference Room 1 will be used to accommodate extra participants. No printing or reproduction facilities will be made available.

Submitting and circulating documentation

No documents should be circulated in the meeting room without prior permission of the APFSD Secretariat. Documents or publicity materials intended for meeting participants can be left at the counter provided for this purpose at the SDG Acceleration Pavilion.

Contact information

APFSD Secretariat:

Ms. **Sara Libera Zanetti**, at: sara.zanetti@un.org with cc: escap-apfsd@un.org
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AP-RCEM Secretariat:

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Annex

Entry points for civil society interventions at the 11th APFSD

Sessions	Time	Pre-identified speaker ³	Formal statements consolidated/ individual
Tuesday 20 February			
Agenda item 1 Opening session <i>Opening of the Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development</i>	09:00 - 12:00	✓	-
Agenda item 2 Thematic review <i>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</i>	09:00 - 12:00	✓	✓
Agenda item 2 Thematic review	14:30 - 17:30	✓	✓
Wednesday 21 February			
Agenda item 3 <i>Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through voluntary national reviews</i>	09:00 - 11:30	✓	✓
Round Tables <i>Parallel Round Tables for in-depth review of SDG 1, 2, and 17</i>	13:30 - 16:00	✓	(Informal discussion)
Thursday 22 February			
Round Tables <i>Parallel Round Tables for in-depth review of SDG 13 and 16</i>	09:00 - 11:30	✓	(Informal discussion)
Agenda item 4 <i>Review of regional progress and opportunities for achieving the SDGs</i>	13:30 - 16:30	✓	✓
Agenda item 5 <i>Other matters</i>	13:30 - 16:30	-	✓
Friday 23 February			
Agenda item 6 <i>Review and adoption of the draft report of the Forum, including the Chair's summary</i>	14:00 - 16:00	-	✓

³ Identified through a call for speakers prior to the meeting (closed).