

Concept note

APFSD Youth Forum and the Asia and the Pacific regional ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022

“Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific with young people at the forefront of SDG Action.”

Introduction

The 9th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) will be organised ahead of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022, on the theme **“Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific”**. This theme also resonates with the theme for the HLPF 2022, **“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**, and the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) 2022 session.

ARROW along with the regional co-convenors, YouthLead and YPEER Asia-Pacific and other regional youth networks has been organising the annual APFSD youth forum since 2017. We propose to align with the theme of HLPF, ECOSOC Youth Forum and the APFSD theme for 2022 as well.

In 2021, more than 500 adolescents and young people in the age group of 13-30 yrs from across the Asia and the Pacific region participated at the APFSD youth forum. The youth forum resulted in 8 national youth call to actions; 4 sub-regional call to actions and one regional call to action, developed by young people.

Resonating the theme of the HLPF 2022 and APFSD 2022, the annual APFSD Youth Forum theme is proposed as **“Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific with young people at the forefront of SDG Action**. The youth forum will be held from the 19-21 March in Bangkok (Hybrid manner- both physical and Virtual) ahead of the APFSD People Forum and the APFSD Intergovernmental Fora. The forum will take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across the identifies Sustainable Development Goals, and forge meaningful and inclusive youth engagement in the follow-up, review and implementation of the SDGs

Objectives

- To ensure young people voices, their realities and perspectives are meaningfully included, in setting, transforming and implementing the regional agenda on sustainable development, with specific reference to the **intergovernmental APFSD, ECOSOC Youth Forum, and HLPF 2022 processes;**
- To sustain the dedicated youth convening space of **“APFSD Youth Forum”**, and discuss SDG implementation with focus on **“Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific with young people at the forefront of SDG Action.”;**
- Assess the progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of SDGs slated for in-depth review including SDG 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 from a youth lens, and also address structural and systemic barriers to youth inclusion in sustainable development;

- Contribute to the voluntary national review process, from a youth perspective.
- To develop the Youth Call to Action at regional, sub-regional and national level to inform the intergovernmental APFSD, ECOSOC sessions and ECOSOC Youth Forum and HLPF in 2022

The outcomes of the APFSD Youth Forum, will feed into the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022, as well as the High-Level Political Forum 2022. At the same time the outcomes of the youth forum, will contribute to the APFSD intergovernmental fora outcomes, including engagements with Member States interventions. The regional call to action will also contribute to national level follow up and review with governments in respective countries. All follow up actions will build from the outcomes of the youth forum. In addition, we will ensure young people representation and active participation in all these identified forums such as the ECOSOC Youth Forum, and HLPF.

Dates and Location

19-21 March in Bangkok (Hybrid manner depending on pandemic situation- both Physical and Virtual to cater to those young people who are not able to travel due to restrictions).

Methodology

The APFSD Youth Forum 2022 will have series of plenary, panel discussions and dialogue sessions on the identified theme. We aim to incorporate capacity strengthening sessions as well. These sessions will include relevant stakeholders, youth-led and youth-serving organizations, resource persons. Youth perspectives, key findings and recommendations from each session will be developed into the “**APFSD Youth Call to Action 2022**” to be shared and presented at the APFSD, ECOSOC Youth Forum and HLPF.

Participants

The APFSD Youth Forum 2022, will be held in a HYBRID manner - both physical and virtual to cater to those young people who are not able to travel due to restrictions. We aim to bring at least 500 young people from diverse contexts to participate from across the Asia and the Pacific region.

Selection of participants

We will align with the APFSD call for applications process that ESCAP will initiate. In addition, we will also send out a separate call for application to all youth-led, youth-serving and young people organisations and individuals. Youth groups from the regional networks, partnerships will also be included based on identified selection process to ensure diverse and meaningful youth participation.

Organisers

The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), AP-RCEM Youth Constituency, coordinated by YouthLEAD and YPEER Asia Pacific, are co-convenors of the APFSD Youth Forum. Along with this other regional youth networks and APRCEM will also join as collaborators.