

I am Pervez Siddiqui of Films4Peace Foundation in Bangladesh and part of the International Migrants Alliance Asia Pacific. I wish to share some from the CSO statement that summarised the collective analysis and position of the Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development, of which I am a part of.

We are halfway towards the deadline of achieving the 2030 Agenda, but it is more and more apparent that we are decades behind in achieving these goals. The Asian Pacific region is projected to achieve the SDGs only by 2065, notwithstanding the regressions, at the current rate of progress. The last three years have been particularly disastrous in their impacts due to exacerbating effects of the pandemic, the worsening triple planetary and energy crisis, the increasing militarism and conflict, imperialist wars, as well as the rise of patriarchal authoritarian governance throughout the region.

Countries in the region continue to face disasters, with the region being declared as the most vulnerable to climate crisis. The people and communities in the region dependent on natural resources have suffered chronic impacts, much earlier and deeper than predicted, requiring urgent mitigation and adaptation support. We have also seen a decline in human rights protection, and a consistent rise in authoritarian regimes. The right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, rights of women and girls, migrants, human rights and environmental defenders, rights of minorities, media personnel and civil society activists have been violated with impunity by both state as well as non state actors.

The challenge lies in how we bring our positions and unities to these summits. Our positions should reflect people's demands where genuine, inclusive, and sustainable development is given primacy over profits and greed. It is high time that we shift the power to the people, as they urge action and demand real solutions for a genuine transformative change for a just and fair future for all.

In advocacy spaces, it is unfortunate that despite being keen to participate in the south and south West forum on sustainable development organised in December 2022, CSOs in South Asia could not participate in the forum as there was only a meagre tokenistic support for their participation, prompting CSOs in the subregion to decide against participating in the Forum. However, they still organised an online peoples forum in the spirit of partnership to discuss the worrying situation of the Agenda 2030 in the sub region. We reiterate that participation of very few CSOs curtails diversity and is against the Agenda 2030 spirit. In the atmosphere of increasing shrinking space, we feel that ensuring effective and meaningful participation of the CSOs at UN is becoming a namechecking exercise.