D. Proposals and Recommendations
38. We, the Civil Society Participants of the KMDF-2020, call upon all governments in Asia to:

39. We, the Civil Society Participants of the KMDF-2020, commit to:

E. Call to Action
38. We, the Civil Society Participants of the KMDF-2020, commit to:

40. Promote and ensure the right to information and digital rights including access to internet, personal data protection and right to privacy as a fundamental right,

41. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at the national and local levels to address effectively public health issues especially communicable diseases like the COVID-19 as emphasized in the SDG targets 3.3, 3.8, 3.13 and 3.3 as well as the SDG target 16.6.

42. Recognize the intrinsic link between human rights and the SDGs, and apply a human rights-based and gender-transformative approach to the response and resilient recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic in line with the UN Draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the human rights-based approach to public policies.

43. Recognize the intrinsic link between human rights and the SDGs, and apply a human rights-based and gender-transformative approach to the response and resilient recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic in line with the UN Draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the human rights-based approach to public policies.

44. Promote global citizenship and human rights education as emphasized in the target 4.7 of the SDG as a tool to respond to the COVID-19,

45. Implement the integrated approaches of the whole-of-government, whole-of-society and whole-of-SDGs in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic locally, nationally and internationally.

46. Engage proactively in the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), especially preparatory of the report through meaningful multi-stakeholder partnerships and the implementation of the recommendations and lessons learnt from the VNR process.

47. Engage with the G20 Summit through the C20 to advocate our proposals and recommendations at the forthcoming G20 Summits on 21-22 Nov. 2020 in Saudi Arabia and future G20 Summits in 2021 in Italy, 2022 in Indonesia and 2023 in India.

48. Ensure policy coherence for sustainable development among multilateral, bilateral development agencies and international financial institutions in developing countries in combating COVID-19 and achieving the SDGs,

49. Promote and ensure the right to information and digital rights including access to internet, personal data protection and right to privacy as a fundamental right,

50. Promote and ensure the right to information and digital rights including access to internet, personal data protection and right to privacy as a fundamental right,

51. Engage more actively with the UN Human Rights Council, Office of High-Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other human rights bodies to share the Kathmandu Declaration and outcome of the researches from the KMDF-2020 such as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), and sub-regional forums by the UN ESCAP, and outcome of the researches from the KMDF 2020 such as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), and sub-regional forums by the UN ESCAP,

52. Continue to meet regularly in order to build cross-sectoral and international solidarity among CSOs in Asia and beyond at the forthcoming democracy forums such as the virtual Busan Democracy Forum (BuDF) 2020 and Tokyo Democracy Forum (TDF) 2021.

53. Vitalize and strengthen the existing mechanisms for international cooperation such as Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN), South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC),

54. Strengthen the role of the international organizations and processes such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and G20 Summit to ensure safety of vaccine and free and equitable access among all countries, in particular vulnerable and economically challenged people in developing countries with transparency and accountability in the vaccine development and distribution process,
Preamble:

1. Expressing our deep appreciation by the organizers that Asia Democracy Network (ADN), Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies (CoD) and Partnership for Peace (PfP) in partnership with Development Alliance of Asia (ADA), Asia Dail Rights Forum (ADF), Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and Asia and Mine Rights in Asia (AMRiA) for the successful organization of the Kathmandu Democracy Forum (KMDF) 2020;
2. Expressing our deep appreciation to the Government of Nepal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the Republic of Korea for their support and assistance;
3. Reaffirming our commitment to the previous declarations of the democracy forums in Asia such as the Busan Democracy Forum (BDF) in January 2018, Manbokkor Democracy Forum (MBDF) in February 2019 and Tokyo Democracy Forum (TDF) in April 2019 which have contributed to the defense and promotion of democracy and civic space in terms of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 16);
4. Acknowledging the multiple causes - immediate, underlying and structural – of the COVID-19 pandemic, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;
5. Acknowledging the major causes – immediate, underlying and structural – of the COVID-19 pandemic, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;
6. Acknowledging that right to democracy is an individual-based right and the right of freedom of association is an inherent right, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;
7. Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2020 Session of the ECOSOC under UN 2020 platform, sustainable development” in July 2020,
8. Welcoming the UN Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN adopted on 21 June 2020;
9. Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2020 Session of the ECOSOC under UN 2020 platform, sustainable development” in July 2020,
10. Acknowledging that the right to democracy is an individual-based right and the right of freedom of association is an inherent right, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;
11. Taking note of factors that have exacerbated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic nationally and internationally and avenues for possible solutions to address the impact of the pandemic, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;

A. Impact of COVID-19 on People’s Lives, Human Rights and SDGs in Asia

12. Taking note of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people’s health, livelihoods and human rights, especially of vulnerable people who have been infected with COVID-19 and medical workers;
13. Concerned about the reality that the COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated inequalities within and among countries, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;
14. Concerned about increasing violence, in particular, domestic and gender-based violence (GBV), due to the prolonged lockdown, shutdowns and physical distancing policy, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;
15. Concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable people, social, ethnic, religious minorities as well as socially excluded groups who are, especially, inter alia, migrants, refugees, Dalits, women, children, elderly persons and GBV.
16. Concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 on migrants who are the most vulnerable, discriminated and socially excluded from securing unemployment insurance, health care, livelihood and financial means;
17. Concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 on asylum-seekers and refugees who are experiencing unprecedented scale of economic and social vulnerabilities due to exclusion from access to health care, including the protection from the pandemic, livelihood safety net and freedom of mobility due to the absence of rights respecting responses at national and regional contexts resulting in devastating effects on the effective realization of the Core Human Rights of the Global Compact for Refugees envisioned “whole of society approach” and attainment of SDG 16;
18. Concerned about the Dalits who are facing existential crises due to the exclusion from basic services with unemployment and discrimination in care and relief measures as well as increasing physical and sexual violence during the pandemic; the question the core aspects of ‘life of dignity and peace’ for these communities,
19. Taking note of the holding elections in many countries such as South Korea, Mongolia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar and India in 2020;
20. Concerned about shrinking civic space as illustrated in the cases of increasing legal and financial restrictions on civil society organizations as well as on donors, and the exclusion of the CSOs from the financial compensation and economic stimulus package,
21. Concerned about arbitrary application of the rule of law principle under the state of emergency, violation of non-derogable rights and administrative excession of democratic rights;
22. Concerned about the absence of public health measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in some countries, likely driving about 500 million more people globally into poverty as a result of the pandemic;
23. Concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 on vulnerable people who have been infected with COVID-19 and medical workers;
24. Concerned about the financial sustainability of many CSOs due to reduced funding and donation from the public, as well as donors, and the exclusion of the CSOs from the financial compensation and economic stimulus package,
25. Concerned about the financial sustainability of many CSOs due to reduced funding and donation from the public, as well as donors, and the exclusion of the CSOs from the financial compensation and economic stimulus package,
26. Expressing our full support and solidarity for people’s movement for democracy and human rights in many countries and in particular, in Thailand and Hong Kong.

B. Impact of the COVID-19 on Democracy and Civic Space in Asia

27. Taking note of the positive steps and policy measures taken by some Asian governments to respect, protect and fulfill human rights while combating effectively the COVID-19 under difficult conditions;
28. Emphasising that the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs remains relevant to the alleviation and mitigation of the COVID-19, inter alia, accelerated consumption and unsustainability, production and adverse impacts of climate change, and loss of biodiversity;
29. Welcoming the 10th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2020 which stresses that right for human rights across the continent, including economic and social rights, and civil and political rights, is fundamental to the achievement of the global public health response;
30. Emphasizing the importance of the compliance of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the WHO’s initiative called T3 - Test, Trace & Track which are essential in effective response to the communicable diseases;
31. Recognizing that the governments have a responsibility to provide effective, accountable and transparent institutions as well as to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory decision-making process as emphasized in SDG 16;
32. Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in the development and distribution of the vaccine as global public good,
33. Ascertaining that all governments, especially creditor nations need to take action to address debt issues including debt cancellation or swapping with COVID-19 responses and stimulus packages in developing countries,
34. Stressing the important role to be played by the parliaments and national human rights institutions to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 and to provide legal and policy guidance for the government’s response to the pandemic in accordance with international/human rights principles,
35. Acknowledging the essential role of civil society organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to people in need in times of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as monitoring and advocating people rights and civic space to make the government more transparent and accountable,
36. Encouraging by dedications and good practices through innovative approaches by many CSOs in combating and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic at the grassroots level in partnership with the national and local governments,
37. Aware of the urgent need for coordination and cooperation among CSOs engaged in humanitarian aid, public education as well as monitoring and advocacy at the sub-national, national and international level,
38. Acknowledging the need for coordination and cooperation among CSOs engaged in humanitarian aid, public education as well as monitoring and advocacy at the sub-national, national and international level,