



## **Asia Africa Democracy Forum (AADF)**

*Virtual, 26 to 28 October 2021*

### **Defending and Promoting Democracy and Civic Space with the SDGs**

#### **(Draft) Recommendations for Action**

- The recommendations address SDGs, COVID-19, democracy and civic space as well as CSO's international engagement on those issues as outcome document of the AADF.
- These recommendations were formulated based on the research outcome conducted by researchers as well the international CSO statements on SDGs, democracy and civic space as listed below.
- It is open for more inputs and suggestions from participants till 8 PM Bangkok Time (GMT+7) on Wednesday on 27 Oct. 2021.
- A set of recommendations will be presented to the closing session for adoption as AADF outcome documents at 1:45 PM (Nairobi Time, GMT+3) and 5:45 PM (Bangkok Time GMT+7) Thursday on 28 Oct. 2021.
- Please send your suggestions and comments to [2021AADF@gmail.com](mailto:2021AADF@gmail.com) and Anselmo Lee [alee7080@gmail.com](mailto:alee7080@gmail.com)

### Recommendations for Action – Asia, Africa and Global

	To Government	To CSOs
SDGs Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Government should establish national mechanisms on SDGs</li> <li>② Mainstream CSOs role in achieving SDGs.</li> <li>③ Included CSOs in the VNR process and data generating.</li> <li>④ Set clear indicators and targets to achieve SDGs in particular SDG 16</li> <li>⑤ Provide CSO with resources to achieve sustainable development goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Continue the submission of spotlight reports to provide alternative perspective into VNR</li> <li>② Continue the check and balance process on governmental SDGs policy and implementation</li> <li>③ Forge partnerships and coalitions to share resources and have a stronger voice with policymakers</li> <li>④ Produce concrete recommendations for SDGs</li> <li>⑤ Secure resources toward sustainably in advocating for SDGs</li> </ul>
SDGs Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Government priority should be on establishing own Vaccine manufacture under the Africa CDC</li> <li>② Civil society should come together and challenge and fight vaccine apartheid</li> <li>③ Key focus should be placed on Development as Public Goods</li> <li>④ Stronger advocacy should be directed at countries that diverted loans meant for covid to other areas with the approval of world bank- Kenya and Nigeria</li> </ul>	
COVID-19 Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Increasing vaccination rates to protect people from infection and death</li> <li>② Provide transparent information on COVID-19 infection and treatment</li> <li>③ Respect international human rights laws and standards when implementing health protocols</li> <li>④ Pay special attention to vulnerable community affected by COVID-19 and health protocols</li> <li>⑤ Support CSOs involvement in oversight of health protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Engage in monitoring government support or actions during the pandemic</li> <li>② Partnering and engaging with other civil society, private sector, local communities and other stakeholders in inclusive recovery efforts.</li> <li>③ Making submissions to international bodies, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) on any COVID-19 actions undertaken by states.</li> <li>④ Undertake research to produce reports on COVID-19 impact on civic space</li> <li>⑤ Strengthen online communication and advocacy to make up</li> </ul>

		for lack of face to face contact
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Democracy and Civic Space  Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Only implement justified, proportional, and necessary laws that adhere to existing legislation.</li> <li>② Law should not be used for political purpose to persecution and restrict civil society.</li> <li>③ Laws and policies used to address COVID-19 should be removed once no longer justifiable or relevant.</li> <li>④ Governments should establish independent human rights institutions to monitor and address human rights violations.</li> <li>⑤ Provide non-binding resource to civil society organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Work alongside governments and multilateral platforms, to generate dialogue on issues.</li> <li>② Ensure accountability of government measures especially when it comes to issues related to democracy.</li> <li>③ Establish cross-border alliances and networks in the region to build solidarity, international partnerships.</li> <li>④ Increase CSOs digital presence, which requires investing in digital equipment and the necessary skills of people.</li> <li>⑤ Generate people's data to provide alternative information to government narratives.</li> </ul>
Democracy and Civic Space  Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Kenya shows that constitutions do not guarantee democracy and civic freedom. CSOs must strengthen advocacy on Constitutionalism and not just constitutions- implementation of constitutions is more important than the constitutions themselves</li> <li>② Elections should not be the primary focus of CSOs- elections is only a small part of a democratic agenda- as seen in Uganda, Egypt and Ghana</li> <li>③ Solidarity. Solidarity. Solidarity: The key to civic freedom</li> <li>④ -Seek to promote contextual democracy- not universal democracy that does not consider specific needs of the country</li> <li>⑤ -Africa CSOs should come together to challenge International interests in Africa being camouflaged by AID. Africa receives \$75B in Aid annually, but loses \$200B in economic theft by European countries- specifically Netherlands, UK, France, Germany</li> </ul>	
	Government	CSOs

International Engagement Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Provide opportunity for CSOs engagement at international forums.</li> <li>② Special efforts should be made to include CSOs from the South overcome practical barriers that keep them from participation</li> <li>③ Widen the range of issue based CSOs</li> <li>④ Include CSOs data when compiling information related to democracy and human rights.</li> <li>⑤ More information on CSO participation at the international level should be made publicly available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① CSOs should undertake more evidences based research and share these finding at international forums.</li> <li>② CSOs should be active at global events and prepared in advance to participate in these activities.</li> <li>③ CSOs should engage in a partnerships where they have control over the decision and implementation of projects</li> <li>④ CSOs should build and work in alliances in order to strengthen their position</li> <li>⑤ In spite of challenges, CSOs should innovate and persevere</li> </ul>
International Engagement Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Look beyond traditional spaces- For Africa there are more effective spaces outside the HLPF –OSAA, UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee, UNIFEM CSOs Advisory Unit, Peace Building Commission, AUD-NEPAD</li> <li>② Build solidarity with Global and other Regional CSOs for greater advocacy at global stage</li> <li>③ Ensure global policies are localized, instead of focusing on global implementation</li> </ul>	
International Engagement Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① There needs to be deeper collaboration among CSO leaders of the previous year, present year and coming year to help with continuity of process – the Troika arrangement in C20/ C7 seems a better option.</li> <li>② C20/C7/APEF and others must facilitate more participation from actors from the Global South and non-member states, particularly low-income countries and fragile states.</li> <li>③ Civil society engagement must be more meaningful and sustained for them to bring to the table the voices of citizens, real and diverse.</li> <li>④ Ensure transparent processes of participation by CSOs, with an open application process that allows sufficient time for preparatory work before the forum; and ensure that visa requirements are not used to limit participation.</li> <li>⑤ The engagement of INGOs needs circumspection as some of the BRICS/MIKTA governments are not amenable to open dialogue with such INGOs. Civil society engagement with BRICS/MIKTA, has to be led by domestic civil society from</li> </ul>	

within BRICS/MIKTA countries.

- ⑥ The Sherpas, Sous Sherpas & other high officials should regularly meet domestic civil society throughout the year, both prior to and after Working Group meetings.
- ⑦ Develop a formal monitoring and reporting mechanisms, to evaluate the progress, actions and outcomes related to civil society recommendations and calls-to-action at relevant Ministerial Meetings and the Summit.
- ⑧ Inviting CSOs to the Working Group meetings for providing insights on a thematic issues must be prioritized
- ⑨ The agenda of these meetings should be shared ahead with the civil society.
- ⑩ There needs to be a system to seek feedback from civil society, which allow CSOs to provide an input into the draft documents that the Governments are planning to adopt and suggest key topics

## Key CSO Statements on SDGs, Democracy and Civic Space

### – Global and Asia

#### **Global**

- C20 Policy Pack on G20 Summit in Italy (Oct. 2021)
- Declaration of the 2021 Global People's Assembly (Sept. 2021)
- Regional Consultations Summary Report 2021 by the C4UNWN (Sept. 2021)
- Gwangju Democracy Agenda 2050 by Gwangju Democracy Forum (May 2021)
- International civil society statement on inclusive global governance (April 2021)
- UN75 People's Declaration and Plan for Global Action by the UN2020 (May 2020)
- CoNGO Declaration on the 75th Anniversary of the UN (Oct. 2019)

#### **Asia**

- Asia People's Charter of Demand (Sept. 2021)
- <https://gcap.global/es/news/asia-peoples-assembly-charter-of-demands/>
- Declaration of SDG 16+ Plus Forum in Asia (Sept. 2021)
- Tokyo Democracy Forum – 10 Recommendations (Mar. 2021)
- Kathmandu Declaration on COVID-19 and Democracy in Asia (Nov. 2020)

## Hyperlinks about the CSO Statements

### Global

- C20 Policy Pack on G20 Summit in Italy (Oct. 2021) <https://civil-20.org/>
- Declaration of the 2021 Global People's Assembly (Sept. 2021) <https://gcap.global/peoples-assembly/>
- Regional Consultations Summary Report 2021 by the C4UNWN (Sept. 2021) <https://c4unwn.org/>
- Gwangju Democracy Agenda 2050 by Gwangju Democracy Forum (May 2021) <http://2021gdf.518.org/main.php>
- International civil society statement on inclusive global governance (April 2021), [wethepeoples.org](http://wethepeoples.org)
- UN75 People's Declaration and Plan for Global Action by the UN2020 (May 2020) <https://c4unwn.org/forum-declaration/>
- CoNGO Declaration on the 75th Anniversary of the UN (Oct. 2019) <http://ngocongo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CoNGO-Declaration-UN75-English.pdf>

### Asia

- Asia People's Charter of Demand (Sept. 2021) <https://gcap.global/es/news/asia-peoples-assembly-charter-of-demands/>
- Declaration of SDG 16+ Plus Forum in Asia (Sept. 2021) <https://www.facebook.com/ada2030/>
- Tokyo Democracy Forum – 10 Recommendations (Mar. 2021) <https://hapiconf.com/programs/573/>
- Kathmandu Declaration on COVID-19 and Democracy in Asia (Nov. 2020) <https://community-democracies.org/closing-remarks-kathmandu-democracy-forum-2020/>