



### C. Asian and African CSOs' Engagement with International Organizations

15. Ensure and promote policy and institutional coherence among the United Nations, international organizations and processes such as International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), G7, G20, Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS), Mexico-Indonesia-South Korea-Turkey-Australia (MIKTA), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), European Union(EU)-African Union (AU) Conference in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as international human right agreements,
16. Ensure that regional organizations in Asia and Africa such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit (EAS), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), 'BIMST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), AU, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), etc. establish and strengthen their partnerships with civil society through open and inclusive institutionalized mechanisms for citizen participation.

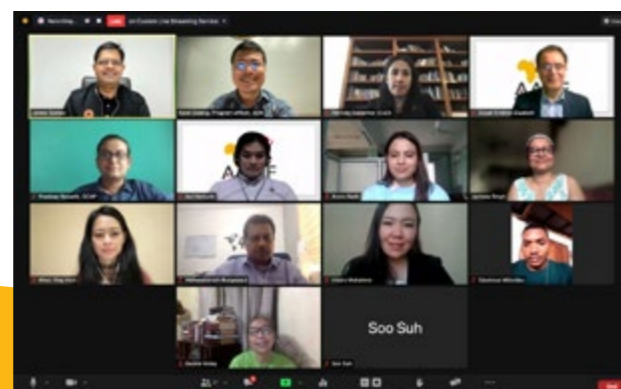
### D. CSO Commitment and Action Plans

17. Support and strengthen the participation of youth, young women and girls in advocacy and monitoring efforts for the realization of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as human right instruments through inter-generational dialogue and partnerships,
18. Engage more actively with SDGs monitoring and advocacy processes at the local, national, regional and global levels, such as the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) through independent CSO monitoring and advocacy reports, such as the People's Scorecard, spotlight reports, etc.,
19. Support and advocate for the creation of i) an instrument for a UN World Citizens' Initiative<sup>2</sup>; ii) a UN Parliamentary Assembly<sup>3</sup> and iii) the office of a UN Civil Society Envoy of the "We the Peoples Campaign"<sup>4</sup>.
20. Engage proactively with the G20 Summit in Indonesia (2022), in India (2023) and with the C20 mechanisms in line with the 'Bandung Spirit' of 1955 Asian-African Conference, as a means of building solidarity between peoples and CSOs from the Global South, in particular Africa and Asia,
21. Continue to engage in the inter-regional dialogue and cooperation to build global solidarity led by the Global South in Africa, Asia, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and Latin America and Caribbean in 2022 and beyond, in partnership with the Community of Democracies (CoD).

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# Asia Africa Democracy Forum (AADDF)

## Virtual, 26 to 28 October 2021

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



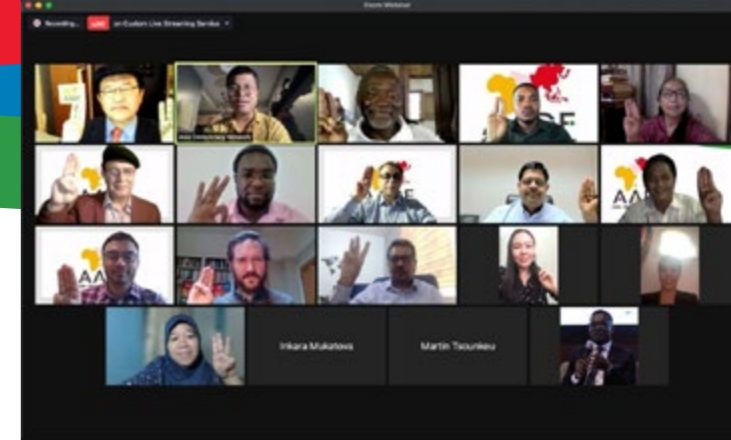
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldcitizensinitiative.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unpacampaign.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wethepeoples.org/>

# Recommendations for Action and Commitments

Final Draft on 17 Nov. 2021



## A. SDGs and human rights in the context of COVID-19

## B. Democracy and Civic Space in the context of COVID-19

## C. Asian and African CSOs' Engagement with International Organizations

## D. CSO Engagement and Commitment

We, participants of the Asia-Africa Democracy Forum (AADF) on 26-28 Oct. 2021 under the theme "Defending and Promoting Democracy and Civic Space with the SDGs", adopt the following recommendations to the governments, international organizations, and all stakeholders as a common guide for Asian and African CSOs action to build global solidarity to meet global challenges related to the SDGs, democracy and civic space in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### A. SDGs and Human Rights in the Context of COVID-19

1. Ensure that the Paris Agreement on climate change and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs are considered as important blueprints and tools for response and recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Promote the meaningful and inclusive participation of communities and civil society as priority for the effective response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that must be human rights-based, people-centered, equity-focused, and designed through a gender-transformative lens.
3. Ensure free, fair, and universal access to the COVID-19 vaccines and treatment as a global public good and universal health coverage through the approval of the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver under the auspice of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Promoting 'vaccine nationalism', 'vaccine inequality', and for profit-making purposes.
4. Create and ensure a Universal Social Protection Floor for all, through the implementation of SDG Target 1.3 "implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable" and the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection.

5. Develop and apply an integrated and inclusive approach to the SDGs through a human rights-based, gender-transformative, and conflict-sensitive approach that considers interlinkages with SDG 16 and 17.
6. Promote the interlinkages between SDGs and human rights through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process and the human rights mechanisms, especially the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), monitoring of the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, and develop a multi-stakeholder participation mechanism similar to the UPR by including the CSO report on the UN website.
7. Ensure the inclusion of quality and disaggregated data beyond the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), including citizen-generated data for effective monitoring of the SDGs and its implementation at all levels – locally, nationally, regionally and globally.
8. Ensure the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the multi-stakeholder partnership (SDG 17.17) for the private sector that engages with the SDGs.
9. Urgently tackle the climate crisis through the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and other environmental agreements on biodiversity, desertification, etc., and promote a green and just energy transition to ensure a carbon-zero society.
10. Promote peace and prevent conflicts including through the new agenda for peace contained in the UN Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda (2021) and Agenda for Disarmament - Securing Our Common Future (2018)" including the reduction of military expenditure by 3 percent annually (25% by 2030) and channel the savings towards peacebuilding, the SDGs and Paris Agreement on climate change,
11. Engage proactively with the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda (Sept. 2021), especially through the proposed global summits, including Transforming Education Summit in 2022, Summit of the Future in 2023, and World Social Summit in 2025.

### B. Democracy and Civic Space in the Context of the COVID-19

12. Address issues related to shrinking civic space, including digital space and promote citizens participation in the response and recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic through accountable legal and policy measures in accordance with the UN Guidelines for States on the right to participate in public affairs.<sup>1</sup>
13. Ensure the financial sustainability of the CSOs in Africa and Asia domestically and internationally for their autonomous operation through effective financing for sustainable development including ODA for capacity-building, monitoring and advocacy on the SDGs and civic space.
14. Ensure equitable access to the Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for SDGs and human rights (SDG 17.6-8), enhance digital literacy and bridge the digital divide to defend and promote democracy and civic space.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/DraftGuidelinesRighttoParticipationPublicAffairs.aspx>