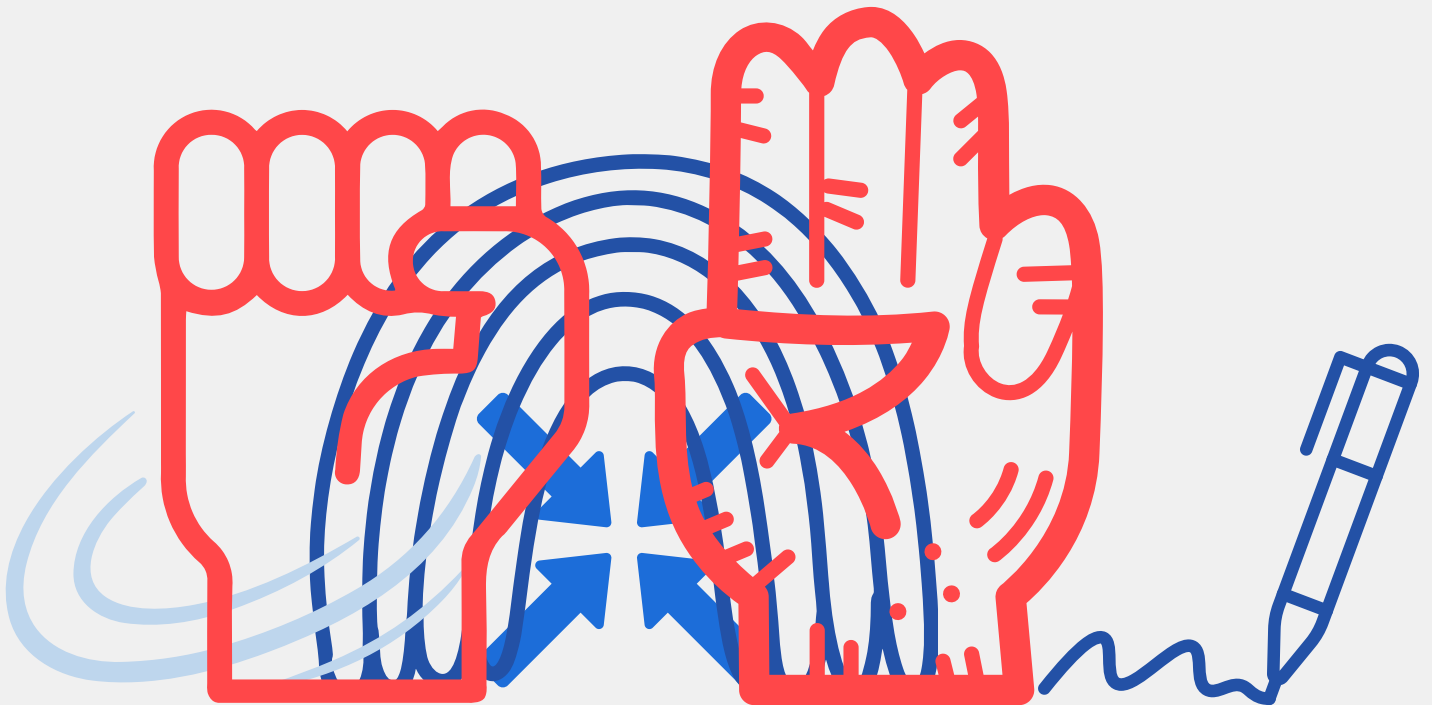


Defending Democracy

MOBILIZING MOVEMENTS AND NEW
FRONTIERS FOR CITIZEN ACTION



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ASIAN DEMOCRACY
PRODUCED BY THE ASIA DEMOCRACY NETWORK & INNOVATION FOR CHANGE - EAST ASIA

■ SUMMARY

“Defending Democracy” is a synthesis of the various priority areas in defending and promoting democracy, identified by Asian pro-democracy stakeholders within a two-year process (2024-2025). The process to create this document included various national and subregional consultations, which culminated in the 2025 Asia Democracy Assembly held in Bangkok on November 1 and 2, 2025, which gathered more than 300 stakeholders. The findings relay 6 areas stakeholders should focus on to catalyze effective pro-democracy initiatives across the region. These six priority areas include: addressing shrinking spaces, enabling a more synergized movement building, democratizing the digital space, accentuating pro-democracy narratives and riding cultural shifts, enabling genuine inclusion in our movements and the society, and strengthening international solidarity. The process to create this publication was led by the Innovation for Change - East Asia, and the Asia Democracy Network, with the hope that it will help stakeholders navigate the ever-shifting democracy landscape in the region.

INTRODUCTION

Asia's democracy landscape is dynamic – challenges, priorities and opportunities shift year-after-year – impacting pro-democracy efforts by various sectors in various Asian states. Over the past decade, the Asia Democracy Network (ADN) has been at the forefront of identifying these trends on democracy, and consolidating efforts among stakeholders in response to autocratic expansion threatening democracies. Among these initiatives are the bi-annual hosting of the Asia Democracy Assembly (ADA), and the release of the ADA Outcome Document. These programs are intended to serve as a navigation tool for the pro-democracy sector in areas which require attention and prioritization to realize genuine democratization in the region.

This iteration of the Asia Democracy Outcome Document is a result of a two year process, from 2024 to 2025, involving a wide gamut of pro-democracy sectors. The outcome document covers 6 thematic regional priorities, and various recommendations on how to address challenges presented, based on inputs from practitioners and advocates. The publication paints a regional situation of democracy that is dominated by issues that are borderless and impact multiple sectors – the weaponization of disinformation and dangerous narratives, quashing of public dissent and consultation, to securitized and militarized governance, among others, which dominated conversations over the past two years. ADN and its members hope that this publication will be instrumental in synergizing approaches and advocacies to democratize Asia, and foster greater unity to enable a more vibrant regionwide democracy movement.

■ METHODOLOGY

ADN worked with Innovation for Change – East Asia (I4C-East Asia) to facilitate the Final Strategy Session of the Asia Democracy Assembly (ADA) 2025. The session aimed to consolidate and synthesize key strategies developed during Events I to III and to prioritize next steps for post-ADA 2025 action. In preparation, ADN organized three online sub-regional discussions in September 2025, focusing on geographical and stakeholder-specific issues. Presenters were asked to address three guiding questions: the key challenges, recommended strategies to address them, and anticipated challenges in implementing those strategies. While not all presenters explicitly answered every question, recommendations and potential risks were often inferred from their inputs.

I4C-East Asia documented the challenges, strategic priorities, and foreseen risks from the discussions in a shared document and cross-checked them against ADN's country reports. Using a Mural Board, the team organized challenges and corresponding recommendations by country and then clustered them by region: South Asia, Southeast Asia, and a combined grouping for Northeast Asia and Central Asia. Emerging strategic themes were further consolidated with insights from ADA 2025's thematic and plenary sessions. These clusters were translated into clear, top-level goal statements to ensure inclusivity and avoid debate over specific details, with additional goals created where needed to capture nuanced strategies.

In total, 57 priority areas were consolidated from 20 country reports presented during the three online sessions, covering eight countries from Southeast Asia, seven from South Asia, four from Northeast Asia, and one from Central Asia. Additional recommendations were drawn from seven thematic sessions and four plenary sessions held during ADA 2025. The Final Strategy Session thus produced a comprehensive and regionally grounded set of strategic priorities to guide collective action moving forward.

2025 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

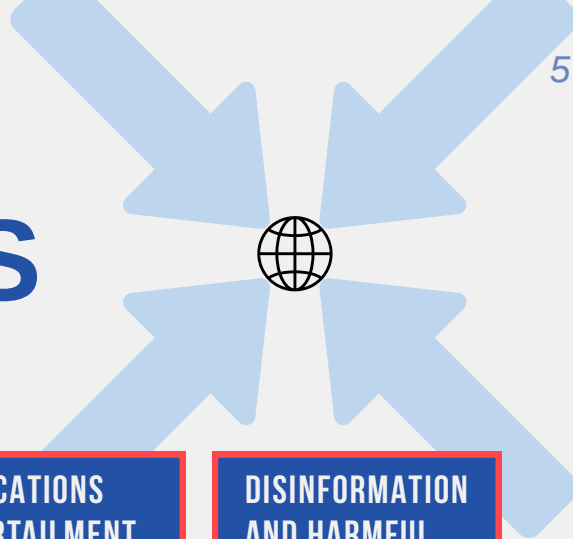
■ ADDRESSING ASIA'S SHRINKING CIVIC SPACES

Across Asia, democratic institutions and processes are facing serious threats as states and their institutions become increasingly captured by political and economic interests. Dynastic, military and single dominant parties with connections to economic elites and interests dominate legislatures, and manipulate legal, constitutional, financial, and bureaucratic systems to entrench their power and protect vested interests. Independent bodies, such as electoral commissions, are often staffed with partisan appointees, while corruption scandals—such as those seen in Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines in 2025—have further undermined public trust and political stability. At the same time, the security sector, particularly the military and police, has expanded its role in executive and legislative functions, blurring civilian–military boundaries in countries like Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Governments have also invoked national security, counterterrorism, and emergency powers to justify repression, increased surveillance, and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Laws have been weaponized against human rights defenders, activists, and marginalized groups, while protests and dissent are increasingly criminalized. State-backed disinformation campaigns—through trolling, algorithmic manipulation, and AI-driven media tactics—have distorted public narratives and deepened social divisions. Altogether, these trends represent a broad assault on the democratic ecosystem, requiring strengthened protections for rights and freedoms, civic space, and the safety of activists and civil society actors.



SHRINKING CIVIC SPACES



CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

INSTITUTIONAL CAPTURE BY POLITICAL & ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Ruling majority parties have dominated all government branches—Legislatures have become rubber stamps of the party; independent constitutional commissions, state ministries, and state corporations are filled with majority party nominees.

SECURITY SECTOR EMBEDDED IN EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

The military and police are taking on executive roles and legislative positions previously reserved for civilian authority, resulting in militarized forms of governance expanding across the region.

JUSTIFICATIONS FOR CURTAILMENT OF RIGHTS & FREEDOMS

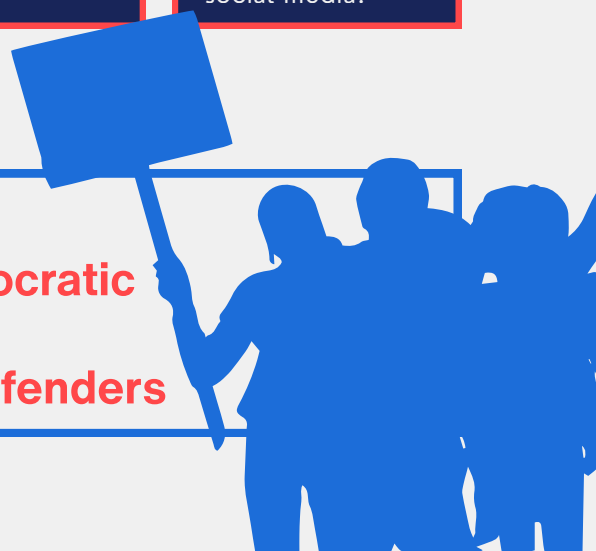
Governments have invoked national security, counter-terrorism and the need for emergency powers to curtail rights and freedoms, control dissent and public participation, weaponize laws, and surveil citizens.

DISINFORMATION AND HARMFUL NARRATIVES

Disinformation is used to distort narratives, foster fear, harass, intimidate, through coordinated state-sponsored trolling, algorithmic manipulation, and artificial intelligence in social media.

GOALS

The onslaught against the democratic ecosystem entails protecting – 1) democratic rights and freedoms; 2) civic spaces; 3) all civic actors, activists, & rights defenders



ACHIEVED THROUGH

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Advocate for freedom of expression, and access to information; Advocate for the rule of law and human rights standards in accordance with international human rights law; Ensure human rights monitoring and reporting

SAFEGUARDING OF CIVIC SPACES

Protect civic space from authoritarian pressures; Ensure safe spaces and environments for the expression of freedoms and rights, including reclaiming digital spaces; Channel resources for an enabling environment for civil society

PROTECTION OF CIVIC ACTORS

Protect HRDS and Persons-at-Risk, citizens in exile, in the diaspora; Protect members of the media and journalists; Establish safety and protection mechanisms on the country level and regional level (ie, provide rapid response/ emergency legal and safety support/aid; provide legal helplines; issue rapid guidance on using due-process protections; provide legal support in courts, and voice concerns publicly)

2025 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

ENABLING A MORE SYNERGIZED MOVEMENT BUILDING

Democracy movements across Asia face a complex and hostile political environment. In 2024 and 2025, the youth led widespread protests and mobilizations in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, and Mongolia. Yet, youth leadership remains underutilized, tokenized, or excluded from decision-making spaces, weakening long-term movement sustainability. Governments employ authoritarian tactics to curb movement organization, including repression of youth and marginalized sectors, surveillance, legal harassment, and transnational intimidation. Meanwhile, unresolved historical traumas and ongoing violence deepen fear, mistrust, and social fragmentation, making sustained activism increasingly difficult, especially in countries such as Cambodia and Vietnam.

Internal movement gaps further challenge progress, with professionalized NGOs and government-organized NGOs (GONGOs) often disconnected from grassroots-led initiatives, creating mistrust and strategic misalignment. In addition, greater intergenerational and intersectoral dialogue within movements have to be encouraged to enable a more integrated approach to democratization. Meanwhile, entrenched political and bureaucratic elites with strong business ties maintain continuous dominance, making systemic reform difficult. Together, these dynamics create a regional landscape of vibrant but fragmented activism confronting resilient, well-resourced authoritarian structures, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen youth leadership, bridge movement divides, and address collective traumas to advance democratic change.



MOVEMENT BUILDING

CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

UNTAPPED YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The youth are leading protests and revolutions yet remain underrepresented, disengaged, tokenised, both in formal and informal settings.

AUTHORITARIAN PLAYBOOK

Military and authoritarian governments are suppressing political participation, dissent, youths and minority sectors, solidarity, civil society, while practicing transnational repression.

TRAUMA & VIOLENCE

Unresolved historical traumas and violence, compounding with present traumas and violence.

MOVEMENT GAPS

between professionalized NGOs and grassroots or youth-led movements.

CONTINUOUS POLITICAL DOMINANCE

Entrenched political and bureaucratic elites with deep ties to business, leading to a system resistant to change.

GOALS

Ensure greater youth participation, towards generational renewal and active citizenship



ACHIEVED THROUGH

GALVANIZING GEN-Z INTERESTS

Mindful of short attention span, sources of anxiety and anger, and different paths to activism

INTER-GENERATIONAL STRATEGIZING

generational renewal, sustained by vigilance, imagination, and cross-border solidarity

RESILIENCE AT THE CENTER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION

Sharing of resources and sustainability; progressive political movements need to be able to forecast, be agile in strategies and political action; drawing lessons from strengths and weakness of both structured and unstructured movements

MORE INCLUSIVE, INTERSECTIONAL MOVEMENTS

Solidarity needed across diverse groups: having conversations, learning each other's goals, doing joint analysis and intersectional power maps, statements of solidarity, collective resource model

2025 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

■ DEMOCRATIZING THE DIGITAL SPACE

The digital realm, once seen as a tool to enhance democracy, participation, and governance, has introduced complex challenges across Asia. Deep digital divides persist between rich and poor countries, urban and rural areas, and different economic strata, leaving those without access to internet or digital tools at a significant disadvantage. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and citizens need to further build their technical capacity to fully understand and use emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), including their social, human rights, and environmental implications. Meanwhile, governments and political actors are weaponizing digital tools and disinformation to control narratives, manipulate public opinion, and target activists, further undermining democratic processes and citizen trust.

Artificial intelligence and social media companies, and the Big Tech have amplified these challenges. AI-generated content poses threats to information integrity, enabling faster dissemination of disinformation, targeted attacks on activists, gender-based harassment, and manipulation of election campaigns. Environmental impacts from energy- and water-intensive AI infrastructure also raise human rights concerns. Big Tech and social media companies monopolize data, lack transparency, and co-opt governance processes, often sidelining civil society in AI and internet governance discussions. While some countries, such as Taiwan and Sri Lanka, have attempted to monitor or push back against these influences, gaps remain in regulation, accountability, and protection mechanisms, leaving citizens and democracy advocates vulnerable to the misuse of technology.



DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

ACCESS AND CAPACITY ISSUES

These are heightening the digital divide; those without resources to own or have access to digital tools, equipment, and services, and those who have little or no capacities to use them, are naturally disadvantaged.

RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF TECH TOWARDS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

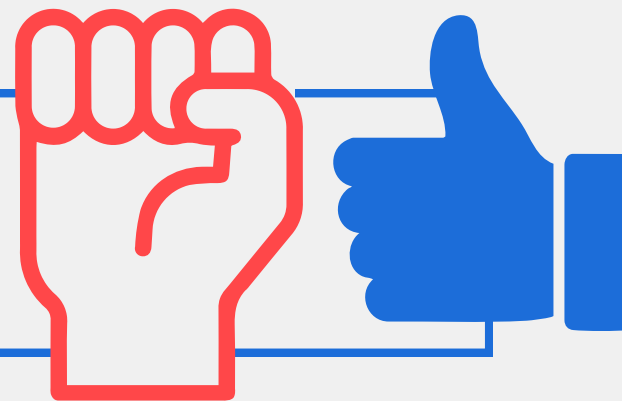
The use of tech and AI, and their social, human rights, and environmental impacts, are little understood by civil society and the general public.

LACK OF GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION OF BIG TECH

Lack of governance and regulation of tech companies enable states and corporations to weaponize big data and AI against citizens, activists, and minorities for anti-democratic ends and vested private interests.

GOALS

Uphold digital democracy & online freedoms for all



ACHIEVED THROUGH

ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITIES

Enhancement of Capacities on Digital Literacy, Tech Tools and Support for monitoring and reporting, for navigating influencing operations, for navigating disinformation, for timely and informed action; understanding how manipulation works, recognizing patterns, language, tracing of bots; for understanding AI tech and applications

ADVOCACY ON REGULATIONS

Advocacy on Government Regulation to ensure accountability, safeguarding, protection, and gender-responsive mechanisms, especially for Big Tech; Advocate for the harmonization of regulations to reflect the diversity of the internet ecosystem, in particular with regard to data privacy and protection, protection of freedom of speech, and human curated knowledge platforms for public interest

DIGITAL SAFE HAVENS

Safe Havens can offer digital protection against DDoS attacks and cyber-bullying, Provide secure safe communications for at-risk media outlets and human rights defenders, Provide access to tech and security experts, and offer micro-grants for rapid mitigation

2025 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

ACCENTUATING PRO-DEMOCRACY NARRATIVES AND RIDING CULTURAL SHIFTS

Narratives and cultural shifts play a critical role in shaping democratization in Asia, yet they are increasingly constrained by structural and historical baggage. Trust in political institutions is eroding as asymmetric wealth distribution and the absence of meaningful reforms deepen perceptions of illegitimacy. Citizens, particularly the Gen-Z, feel political disillusionment, with the perception of elite dominance in politics, corruption and economic precarity, as “normal” features of democratic life. These dynamics are compounded by postcolonial legacies of centralized authority, ethno-religious dominance, and top-down governance structures, which limit the development of inclusive political cultures and reinforce hierarchies that discourage citizen engagement.

The influence of the military and the management of information further shape cultural and democratic trajectories. Militarized and securitized governments that operate without neutrality or meaningful public consultation skew political processes, reinforce authoritarian norms, and suppress grassroots movements. At the same time, official narratives—shaped through education, media, and the erasure of dissenting histories—recast collective memory to legitimize state authority and marginalize pro-democracy perspectives. Cybercrime and digital regulation laws, if enacted without strong safeguards, risk overreach and can criminalize free expression, undermining the democratic potential of online spaces. Together, these forces create a cultural environment where democratic values and civic trust are fragile, requiring intentional narrative interventions, memory preservation, and protection of digital freedoms to foster a resilient democratization process.



NARRATIVE CHANGE & CULTURAL SHIFTS



CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

TRUST DEFICIT & POLITICAL DISILLUSIONMENT	GROWING ROLE & INFLUENCE OF MILITARY	POST-COLONIAL LEGACIES	CYBERCRIME LEGISLATION	FITTING OFFICIAL NARRATIVES
Asymmetric incomes for elites, lack of reforms lead to delegitimized institutions and eroded trust	Lack of neutrality of military in politics, lack of public consultation	Centralized power structures, ethno-religious dominance, patronage politics	Potential overreach in regulating online speech, in the absence of strong data protection safeguards	Education, media, and memory of dissent recast to fit official narrative; pro-democracy books and memorials removed

GOALS

Advance positive narratives of democracy, civil society, and rights-based development



ACHIEVED THROUGH

LINKING DEMOCRACY WITH TANGIBLE REFORMS	HOPE-BASED COMMUNICATIONS	CIVIC & HUMAN RIGHTS EDUC. FOR CULTURAL SHIFTS	INDEPENDENCE OF MEDIA	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MEDIA LITERACY
Linking democracy with jobs, equity, rights, and tangible reforms; partnerships with civil society as nation-building; promotion of best practices such as rights-based development	to pave the way for individual and collective action; strengthen legitimacy, credibility, adaptability amidst changing political and social dynamics	Countering populist narratives & rhetoric, while listening to people's voices; political education of democratic values, citizenship, & human rights in formal education and community-based initiatives; open platforms for dialogues beyond echo chambers	Depoliticize media ownership and foster local ownership of media	Cultivate informed audiences who value credible journalism as public good; include citizen and community journalists in professional media associations; promote media-to-media collaborations

2025 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

ENABLING GENUINE INCLUSION IN OUR MOVEMENTS AND THE SOCIETY

Marginalized sectors across Asia continue to face systemic barriers that limit their political participation, social inclusion, and access to resources. Structural discrimination renders these communities voiceless, while intimidation and exclusion prevent them from meaningfully engaging in decision-making processes. Exclusionary politics, including the use of hate speech, xenophobia, and other forms of othering and social scapegoating, further isolates minority and marginalized groups, deepening societal inequities. Sectors such as migrants, indigenous communities, and labor movements face marginalization on a greater scale than in the past five years. Gender inequality remains pervasive, with women and LGBTQIAN+ being underrepresented in government and decision-making bodies, limiting their ability to influence policy and advocate for their rights. In some contexts, anti-feminist sentiment, such as those seen in South Korea, actively reinforce patriarchal norms, restricting women's agency and rolling back progress made by feminist and human rights initiatives.

Within civil society spaces, marginalized groups often experience tokenism, where their participation is limited to symbolic roles such as breakout groups or advisory panels rather than meaningful engagement in plenary discussions and strategy-setting. This relegation not only minimizes their influence but also reinforces a hierarchy within movements and organizations that privileges elite or mainstream voices. The combination of systemic discrimination, exclusionary politics, and tokenization undermines the capacity of marginalized sectors to claim their rights, shape democratic processes, and challenge entrenched power structures. Addressing these challenges requires deliberate inclusion, structural reforms, and mechanisms that elevate marginalized voices from peripheral participation to central roles in governance and civil society.



2025 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES



CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION

Rendering the marginalized voiceless; intimidation; exclusion from political participation

EXCLUSIONARY POLITICS

Hate speech; xenophobia

GENDER INEQUALITY

Lack of women representation in government

RISE OF ANTI-WOMEN MOVEMENT

Political campaigns based on bolstering patriarchy and restriction of women's agency

TOKENISM WITHIN CIVIL SOCIETY

The marginalized are tokenised, relegated to breakout groups rather than plenary settings

GOALS

Ensure the inclusion of and leadership by marginalized peoples and youth in democracy



ACHIEVED THROUGH

REFRAMING

Marginalized peoples as co-authors of democracy, not just symbols

INVESTMENT

Inclusion is not free; accommodation is costly but necessary

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Prioritize leaders from marginalized identities, including youth, women, LGBTQ communities, disabled persons, migrants, and refugees

VISIBILISATION

Center the youth, marginalized and the minoritized in democracy conversations & policy making

HORIZONTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Transformative advocacy begins with civil society

2025 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6

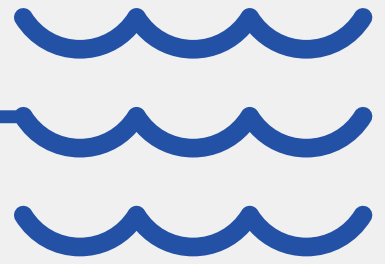
■ STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Asia's local and national democracy and liberation struggles have long benefited from regional and international solidarity, which has amplified marginalized voices and provided critical support for movements on the ground. Historical struggles in countries such as Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, and the liberation efforts of Timor Leste, West Papua, Aceh, the Bangsamoro in Mindanao, Tibet, the Uyghurs, Palestine, and Afghanistan, have received backing from civil society networks, international civil society networks, and diaspora communities. Reporting, monitoring, and advocacy efforts—through mechanisms like the UN Universal Periodic Review and independent analyses of laws and human rights compliance—have helped bring attention to threats against defenders, human rights abuses, and impunity, while foreign governments have applied sanctions, aid conditions, and diplomatic pressure to uphold accountability, as seen in Afghanistan.

China's influence presents a unique challenge in the region, undermining human rights and freedoms in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang, while projecting geopolitical power through military, maritime, and economic initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative. These efforts are coupled with transnational repression, the strengthened authoritarian support system, and digital operations targeting diaspora communities and democratic movements abroad. Regional youth movements, however, demonstrate the power of transnational solidarity: Thai protests in 2020 drew inspiration from Hong Kong's 2019 demonstrations, leading to networks like the "SEAbling", while the 2021 Myanmar coup strengthened informal alliances such as the Milk Tea Alliance across East and Southeast Asia. Strategic international solidarity remains critical to strengthen regional cooperation and support ongoing struggles against genocide, occupation, and authoritarianism.



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

LOCAL AND NATIONAL STRUGGLES

Youth movements, democracy struggles, and liberation movements are challenging undemocratic and authoritarian states and ruling political parties, as well as dominant religious and socio-cultural institutions within their countries

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

Undemocratic states have been extending their repressive reach beyond their borders, aiming to silence activists and citizens in the diaspora, i.e. China has been targeting Hong Kongers, Tibetans, Uyghurs, Taiwanese, and Chinese dissidents.

CHINA'S GEO-POLITICS

Flexing of super-power geo-political influence through aggressive military and naval operations in the China Sea; engaged in election related influencing and malign operations; thru BRI, expansionism through economic, maritime, and digital connectivity silk roads.

WEAK COOPERATION AMONG ASIAN DEMOCRACIES

Democratic governments in Asia do not cooperate to reinforce democratic values in the region. This challenge is compounded by the rollback of funding support for democracy initiatives, while funding coming from Asian sources are minimal.

GOALS

Bridge Solidarity Movements and Transnational Connectivity

Lacking internal recourse to justice and social transformation, and in the face of an Asia super power, international solidarity and support from around the world is needed so that voices and struggles can be amplified, elevated, supported.



ACHIEVED THROUGH

SOLIDARITY SPACES

Bridging of solidarity movements, durable solidarity coalitions across countries and themes, and civil society platforms

CAPACITIES AND RESOURCES

Sustained knowledge sharing, capacity building, coordinated advocacy leading to strategic action and interventions, sustaining Civic Resilience Facilities at both country-level and regional-level, for security and safety services. Asian democracies should create funding mechanisms for democracy promotion initiatives in the region, to counter authoritarian influence.

COLLABS

Sustained cross-border relations between movements and legislators. Work with political party associations like CALD and their legislators for coordinated legislative policy making on social and political issues, as well as transnational/cross-border issues

STRATEGIC MESSAGING

Coordinated international responses with similar messaging, such as No recognition and No engagement without rights, respecting democratic values and women's rights

AN EVERSHIFTING LANDSCAPE OF DEMOCRACY IN ASIA

“Defending Democracy” is the third iteration of the Asia Democracy Assembly Outcome Document, and synthesizes the process findings from the 2025 Asia Democracy Assembly. This publication, produced by ADN members and partners, is a product of the various stocktaking processes conducted by stakeholders on how to catalyze democratization in Asia.

The previous outcome document for the 2023 Asia Democracy Assembly titled “Accelerating Asian Democracy” paints a picture of a region adjusting to a “new normal” – a democracy landscape reshaped by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the resurgence of autocratic control in Myanmar and Afghanistan, and the rise of China’s illiberal influence.

In response, stakeholders identified action points geared towards the reinforcement of democratic values, while exploring new modalities to protect marginalized sectors, which includes the advancing the call for the creation of a UN Special Rapporteur for Democracy, strengthening democracy stakeholder consolidation, solidarity and inclusion, engaging with untapped allies in the private sector, promoting accountability in public processes, and more upfront engagements with governments, and adjusting mechanisms for democracy funding.

“Defending Democracy”, which covers 2023 to 2025, saw the advent of “performative democracies.” In this period, Asia saw great regressions in freedoms and rights, while political processes remained under-reformed and uninclusive. The slow progress of reforms led to the failure to deliver sustainable public services and distribute power from elites to the people. At the same time, the rise of populist-autocrats has put a region into an unprecedented era of geopolitical instability, accentuated by the rise of weaponized information, securitized policies and “othering” of minorities. This situation created great dissatisfactions from Asian citizens, which catalyzed mobilizations in various countries calling for reforms.

The themes presented in “Defending Democracy” outlines concrete steps on how to navigate this evershifting democracy landscape in Asia. ADN hopes this document serves as a catalyst for initiatives that addresses shrinking civic spaces, synergizes people-led movements, democratizes the digital space, accentuates pro-democracy narratives, enables genuine inclusion, and strengthens international solidarity. Ultimately, this document represents a renewed and unified commitment among Asian stakeholders to uphold and strengthen democracy, standing firm against illiberal and autocratic forces across the region.

■ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Foremost, ADN expresses its gratitude to the Innovation for Change - East Asia for their partnership in guiding the process and helping create this document. We also express our thanks for the documenters who assisted in capturing the minutes of the Asia Democracy Assembly 2025.

ADN would also like to express gratitude to our partners who participated in the regional consultation for providing their comprehensive national analyses during the subregional consultations. Furthermore, we express our gratitude to the 60 activists and CSO representatives who attended Closed-door Consultations, which helped synthesize the outcomes contained in the Outcome Document. And finally, we express our thanks to the speakers and more than 300 participants to the Asia Democracy Assembly for the very fruitful discussions.

We offer this document to the Asian pro-democracy community and their unwavering courage and service to promote and protect democracy in the region.