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## ***KEY FINDINGS REPORT***

# **ONLINE YOUTH SURVEY AHEAD OF THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (APFSD) 2020**

Accelerating Action and Delivery of the 2030 Agenda in  
Asia and the Pacific

Co-Convenors: ARROW, Youth LEAD, and YPEER Asia Pacific





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*This survey results findings publication is a joint effort of ARROW, YouthLEAD as youth constituency focal of APRCEM, and YPEER. Our sincere thanks to the team who have worked on this report : Gabriela Romero; Sai Jyothirmai Racherla; Vanessa Monley; Prakriti Naswa; Naz Chowdhry; Sangeet Kayastha; Shamala Chandrasekaran; Evelynne Gomez, Fara Amalina Firdaus Muhammad Rom, Deepa Chandra, Biplabi Shrestha.*

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## BACKGROUND

The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), and Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism APRCEM's Youth Constituency, coordinated by Youth LEAD, and YPEER along with all the stakeholders recognize that young people in this region face intersecting challenges to sustainable development across all dimensions of the economic, social and environment. As a result, a space for young people's significant engagement was created ahead of Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), which is the follow-up and review process of SDGs at the Asia Pacific regional level.

In 2017, ARROW in collaboration with Youth LEAD, the Youth Constituency of APRCEM, organized the first-ever APFSD Youth Forum. The forum witnessed more than 60 activists, advocates and representatives from youth-led, youth-serving, and youth-allied organisations of diverse constituencies in Asia and the Pacific region. The APFSD Youth Forum 2017 Call-to-Action<sup>1</sup> was developed as a result of this engagement, which captured the needs and demands of young people in terms of implementation and accountability of SDGs through an intersectional analysis and participatory approach and was used for policy advocacy engagements by young people attending the APFSD 2017.

In 2018, ARROW and the Youth Constituency of APRCEM YouthLEAD and YPEER convened the second APFSD Youth Forum before APFSD 2018, to review the implementation status of Sustainable Development Agenda through a dialogue process. The forum enabled a multi-stakeholder dialogue involving United Nations agencies from the region as well as regional organisations to discuss the rights of young people and sustainable development in the region. The APFSD Youth Forum 2017 Call-to-Action and the Regional Roadmap for Implementing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were used as primary frameworks for reference during the review and dialogue process with relevant stakeholders. As a result, the APFSD Youth Forum 2018 Statement<sup>2</sup> was developed to fully integrate young people's issues for policy advocacy at the official APFSD 2018 and related regional processes.

In 2019, the APFSD Youth Forum was convened by ARROW, YouthLEAD and YPEER to review the 2019 specific SDG theme and clusters of goals. The forum followed the previous modality and built on the existing APFSD Youth Forum 2018 Call-to-Action. A total of 80 youth activists, researchers, advocates across social, economic and environmental dimensions participated actively at this youth forum.

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<sup>1</sup> Available under: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12AO2r21lt4MjPURhbqUjRSdxahWJiL6f0UPLP-DCB3g/edit#heading=h.d7hnmw6rnits>

<sup>2</sup> Available under: <https://arrow.org.my/publication/pre-apfsd-2018-youth-statement/>



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The Preparatory Youth Forums since 2017 have enabled inclusive young people participation at the intergovernmental APFSD meetings over the last three years. In 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 crises, the APFSD Youth Forum has been postponed. The co-convenors of the APFSD Youth Forum took the opportunity to engage in the ESCAP organized virtual discussions (annex I), contributed to the chair summary (annex ii) and have administered a youth survey ahead of the 7th APFSD to understand the views and perspectives of young people on their meaningful engagement in the SDG process at the regional level.

## Background to APFSD 2020

The theme for High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2020, “**Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**” has been decided by the UN Member States. The HLPF theme resonates at the regional level with the APFSD 2020, titled, **Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in the Asia Pacific**. This inter-governmental forum will be organized from the 25- 27 March 2020. The preceding **CSO/ People’ Forum (22-24 March) as well as the Preparatory APFSD Youth Forum (19-21 March), are all in line with the annual APFSD 2020 theme.**

A closer look at the region points to the fact that despite efforts over the past four years, achieving the full Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development will remain a far cry and will require not just accelerated actions and implementation of the SDG agenda but also a dramatic shift in the ways we will implement the 2030 agenda given the COVID crises. **The Global Sustainable Development Report” (GSDR 2019)**, which has been prepared following the decision of the United Nations Member States at the 2016 high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF), provides an “assessment of assessments”, and highlights proposals that point to key entry points and levers to accelerate the action and delivery of the 2030 agenda.

The identified entry points, and levers, are noted to offer the desired transformations at the necessary scale and speed, and leave no one behind. It is essential to discuss and dialogue on the identified entry points namely a) Human well-being and capabilities; b) Sustainable and just economies; c) Food systems and nutrition patterns; d) Energy decarbonization with universal access; e) Urban and peri-urban development and f) Global environmental common. The levers or means of implementation mechanisms mentioned in the report include – **Governance; Economy and finance; Individual and collective action; Science and Technology**. It is pertinent to look at these entry points and levers from young people’s perspective, to accelerate action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in the Asia Pacific.

## Objectives of the Survey

In May 2020, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Forum will reunite different stakeholders including Member States, Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholders from the Asia Pacific Region in order to discuss and deliberate on the theme of **“Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia Pacific”**. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, this Forum will take place virtually.

The co-convenors of the APFSD Preparatory Youth Forum, facilitated a Youth Survey ahead of the APFSD with the following objectives

1. To understand the perspectives of young people in Asia and the Pacific region on ways to ensure meaningful and inclusive young people engagement in the APFSD processes including the SDG follow up and review.
2. To understand the perspectives of young people on the theme of APFSD 2020 - **Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia Pacific**

As part of the on-going consultations on the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific Region, on 27 March 2020, The Asia Pacific Resource and Research Centre for women, YPEER and Youth Lead conducted an online survey which included regional and national young representatives and respondents from the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2020 Youth Consultation. This report is a synthesis of the information provided in the submissions and intends to present the findings of the questionnaire in a way that is accessible to all respondents, organisations, governments and stakeholders. The information has been collated by country type and region to help identify key priorities.



## THE SURVEY

The purpose of the survey was to collect the voices of young people across Asia and the Pacific region and understand their perspective on ways to ensure meaningful and inclusive young people engagement in the APFSD processes including the SDGs' follow up and review. This report synthesizes responses from the survey and also provides suggestions and recommendations to the APFSD 2020 theme of "Accelerating Action and Delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific".

The online survey was available for young people between the ages of 16-50, selected from the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2020, APFSD People's Forum, APFSD Intergovernmental meeting and all possible youth networks, alliances<sup>3</sup>, organisations and young people across the region. Seventy-nine young people participated in the survey.

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<sup>3</sup> In this document, the term "youth networks" refers to any group or system of interconnected young people that take action towards the implementation and promotion of the SDGs.



The primary research was conducted through a structured questionnaire circulated online and covering the following aspects:

1. The first section included questions to gather necessary demographic information to set the context for the respondent profile.
2. The second section was related to the working experience and area of the work experience of the respondents.
3. The third section was related to the engagement mechanisms and achievements in the implementation of the SDGs among the young population and UN systems.
4. The final action was related to the next APFSD Forum.

The questionnaire consisted of close-ended, open-ended, multiple, and rating questions (entirely objective type). The actual questionnaire is given in Appendix-III for reference.

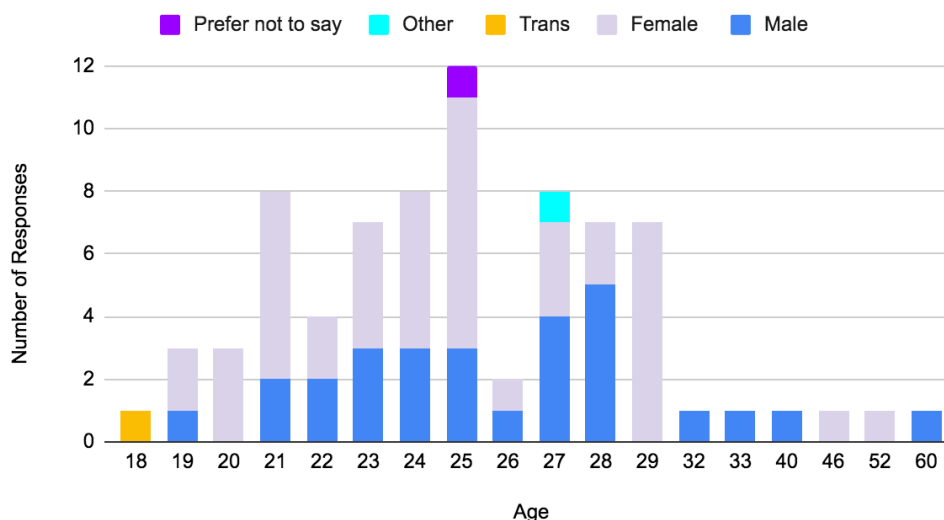


## **1. Basic demographic information**

The results presented in this section were gathered between 27 March and 15 April 2020 through online responses to a survey that was disseminated through each collaborating network, social media accounts and e-mails to the youth networks. Seventy-nine individuals from all over the Asia Pacific region responded to the survey, of which the largest age groups were between 21-29 years old, with 25 years being the most representative group. The age breakup of respondents is seen below in Graphic 1.2. The survey was circulated with no gender preferences. Female, male and persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities and expression were equally targeted. The rate of response and interest from female young people (58.2%) was much higher than male respondents (36.7%). The remaining 3.9% represent the Transwoman, Gay and masculine-presenting genderqueer population, 1.3 % preferred not to identify their gender.

## 1.1 Gender and age

Gender and Age



Eighteen nationalities were represented in the survey. Nepal (23.1%), Bangladesh (11.5%) and the Philippines (9.0%) were the countries with the most number of respondents. The following table shows the participation rate of each nationality. In the report, these countries had the opportunity to share their perspectives on young engagement and participation in the APFSD processes.

Nationalities			
Afghan	3.8%	Nepali	23,1%
Bangladeshi	11.5%	Pakistan	6.7%
Bhutanese	6.4%	Singaporean	1.0%
Filipino	9.0%	South African	1.0%
Fijian	1.0%	Taiwan	1.0%
Indian	9.6%	Thai	6.4%
Iranian	6.4%	Timorensen	1.0%
Malaysian	3.8%	USA	1.0%
Myanmar	3.8%	Vietnamese	4.1%



## 2. Working areas, experience and fields

### 2.1 Participant organisations

In this section, survey respondents shared the name of the organisations with which they are currently involved.

Organisations	
Access planet organisation	Action Aid Bangladesh
Aware	Afghan family guidance association
Bandhu Social Welfare Society	Association Alumni Youth Parliament of Timor-Leste.
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health	AZAD University
CARE U.S.A	Badabon Sangho
Clinton Health Access Initiative organisation	Center for creative initiatives on Health and Population
Community Muslim Universal Malaysia	College of natural resources (CNR)
FHD	Family planning Association of Nepal
FPAN	Family Planning Association of Nepal, Palpa Branch
Hai Phong Union of Science and Technology Associations, Vietnam	Fisher's Rights Network Songkhla
Inclusive Bangladesh	Foundation for Development Management (FDM)
National Campaign for Education Nepal (NCE Nepal)	Hai Phong Union Of Science and Technology Associations, Vietnam
Nepal Institute for Policy Research and Sainamaina Municipality	Himalayan Innovations
Persons with HIV/AIDS Rights Advocacy Association of Taiwan	National Campaign for Education Nepal (NCE Nepal)
Planned Parenthood Association of Pakistan	Plan International Philippines
Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan	Queer Youth Group
Reproductive Family Health Association of Fiji	SERAC Bangladesh
Sangat BD	Sistema Bio
The children and youth council of Thailand	Stamford International University
The planned Parenthood Association of Thailand.	The enlight lab
The YP Foundation	UN Mongolia
University of Cambridge	UNESCAP



Organisations	
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights	VINAFPA
Youth Advocacy Network	VSO Nepal
Youth center Division	VYKAP
Youth Lead	Wasaib Sanwaro
YPEER	Youth Development Center
YPEER Afghanistan	YPEER Nepal
YUWA	

## 2.2 Areas of work

The following table presents information on the thematic sectors that respondents listed as their priorities. The majority of organisations focus on national/local/grassroots initiatives and projects, their primary and most representative focus areas are young people (79.7%), quality education (60.8%) gender equality and empowerment (69.6%). The majority of the survey respondents (51.9%) affirmed to be involved in their working areas for 2-5 years. The rest of the respondents affirmed to be related to their areas of work for less than two years, and more than five years.

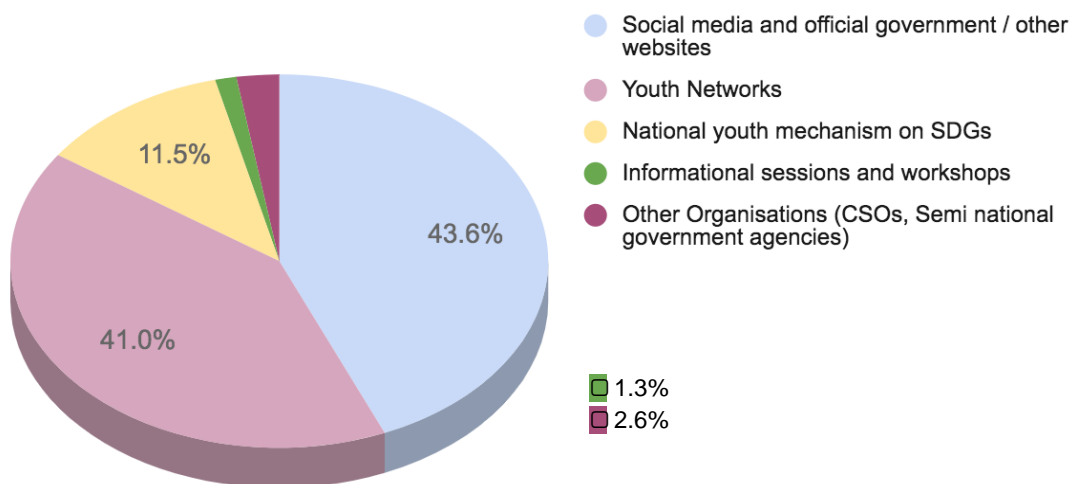
Areas of work mostly represented		Areas of work less represented	
Youth People	79.7%	Research	25.3%
Gender Equality and empowerment	69.6%	Climate change and Environment	24.1%
Quality Education	60.8%	Institution	21.5%
Human Rights	46.8%	Peace, justice and strong institutions	20.3%
Youth Friendly Health Services	46.8%	Sustainable and economic grow	12.7%
Physical mental health and well-being services	43%	Poverty and Hunger	10.1%
Inequalities and Inclusion	39.2%	Sustainable production and Consumption	7.6%
Sustainable Development	38%		

## 2.3 Best ways of reaching young people and sharing information on SDGs by the UN/National Government.

Survey respondents have expressed their opinions on the best ways to reach young people and share information about the progress updates on the SDGs by the UN/National Government. Although no single approach is favored, 43.6% of the respondents rated Social media and official government/other websites, followed by Youth Networks as the best way of reaching young people.

At the same time, respondents indicated that capacity strengthening, sensitization and raising awareness among young people could increase the participation of young networks and representatives in the consultations and review processes at a regional level, enabling them to engage more effectively in the UN Government processes around the SDGs.

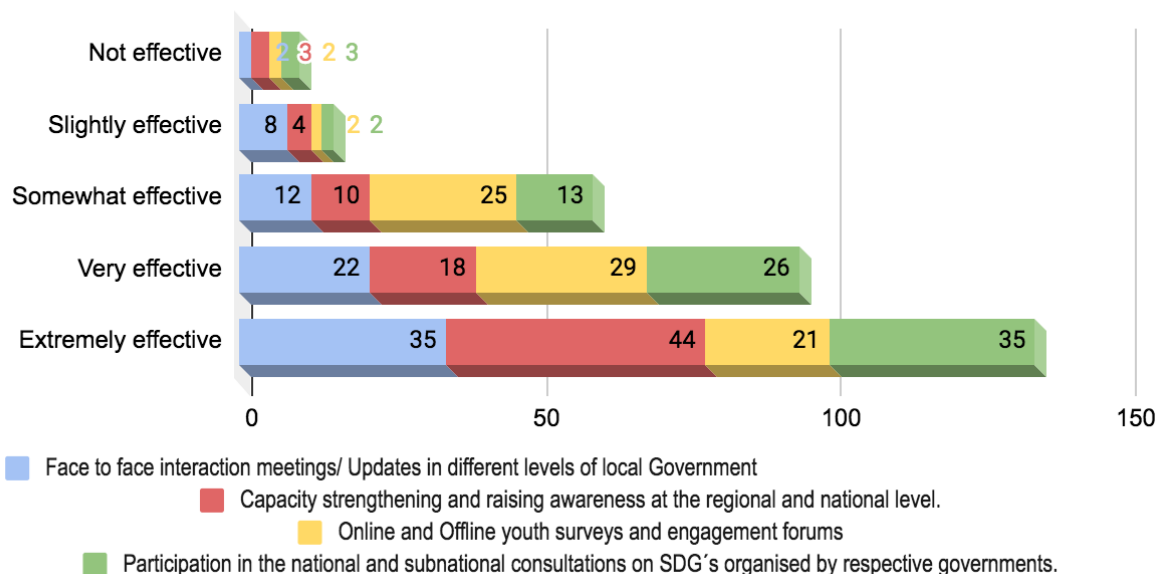
Best way to reach young people and share information on the SDGs by the UN/ National Government



## 2.4 Increasing young people's engagement in the UN government processes regarding the SDGs

Forty-four survey respondents opined capacity strengthening and raising awareness at regional and national levels as extremely effective ways of engagement for young people. Face-to-face interaction meetings (35 respondents) and participation in the national and sub-national consultations on SDGs organized by respective governments (35 respondents) followed the next preference. The implementation of Online and Offline youth surveys and engagement forums as a tool to increase young people's engagement was noted as not extremely effective, however, still scored high as an effective way of engagement for young people.

## Effective ways of engagement for young people in the UN / Government processes related to the SDG's.



## 2.5 Engagement mechanisms to be involved in the SDGs review processes

This open-ended question asked survey respondents to recognize current engagement mechanisms on how they were directly or indirectly involved in the current review processes of the SDGs on a regional and global level. Considering mechanisms that provide them the ability to contribute suggestions to the Government.

### Events and Forums

The majority of survey respondents agree that a measure to participate in the review mechanisms is by organizing international, regional and national forums and meetings allowing youth interaction and exchange and providing the opportunity of interacting with national governments and experts. This strategy was the most popular among respondents since most of the organisations participated in different events with youths and government stakeholders, providing suggestions through youth declarations on national and international levels.

Some of the examples are:

- APFSD Youth Forum
- NGO Forum on sustainable development goals.
- Regional meeting ASPBAE and APFSD
- Gender Youth Activist organized by UN WOMEN

Consultations	A significant number of respondents indicated that national, regional and international consultations with stakeholders are also some of the most effective ways to be engaged in the SDGs processes. Consultations provide an interaction and exchange platform to call for collective actions enabling young people to have a significant impact on the International and national review mechanisms.
Social Media	<p>Respondents from the Asia Pacific Region thought that social media plays an essential role in indirectly influencing review mechanisms and ensuring transparency and accessibility of information.</p> <p>Social media and the creation of campaigns allows organisations to inform and reach young people and to raise awareness among governments and stakeholders on the importance of youth inclusion in the achievement of the SDGs.</p>
Youth Network	Youth networking and the support of youth leaders is recognised as one of the most common strategies to have an indirect impact on reviewing mechanisms. Youth networks identify young leaders in their local communities to raise awareness and provide information on the SDGs.
Cooperation with civil society	Organisations indicated that the cooperation with civil society and the strengthening of dialogues would influence the stakeholder's engagement and the current review mechanisms in the SDGs review processes. Indirectly supporting local initiatives and working on grassroots levels has enabled organisations to empower their networks supporting marginalized youth groups belonging to gender and sexuality minorities.
National and International Surveys	Participating in national and international surveys is recognised among the survey respondents as a productive individual strategy to influence reviewing mechanisms, and providing insights.
Focal points	Acting as focal points for organisations and projects, allows organisations to provide feedback at a national, regional and global level being in this way indirectly involved in the SDGs review process.
Social Enterprises	The creation of social enterprises and projects to raise awareness of the importance of the SDGs and its implementation are also considered as essential initiatives that indirectly influence the reviewing process.
Research	Some of the participants are currently joining research projects to provide national and international recommendations on the implementation of the SDGs.

## Context:

Survey respondents have developed and implemented the above strategies with creativity, dynamism and knowledge to address the challenges that young people are facing today.

These actions allow them to directly or indirectly contribute to review mechanisms of the implementation of SDGs. However, the majority of the survey respondents recognised that there is still a significant need to raise youth participation in reviewing mechanisms, especially among marginalized groups such as Queer people. Some of the survey respondents claimed to feel "not being taken seriously" and being excluded.

## 2.6 Links and examples of current organisation engagements

The following table details examples of where the respondents' organisations are currently engaging in the implementation of the SDGs.

Country	Examples of young people's engagement in the implementation of SDGs
Bangladesh	Sangat Performing Space <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SangatPerformingSpace.BD/">https://www.facebook.com/SangatPerformingSpace.BD/</a>
	SERAC Bangladesh
	Shaikat, Tasnia, Jewel , Ananda. Reality Check on Youth Friendly Health Services. 2019, Bangladesh
	Bangla Booklet of Youth Advocacy and Empowerment. 2019, Bangladesh.
	Shaikat, Shhaina, Tasnia. KAP Study on Combating Child Marriage. 2018, Bangladesh
	Charity organisation of Bangladesh <a href="https://www.facebook.com/125517967985145/posts/518197078717230/">https://www.facebook.com/125517967985145/posts/518197078717230/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODEnqxl_OGE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODEnqxl_OGE</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWmCLdzE1mE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWmCLdzE1mE</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Lf-KjJTfkl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Lf-KjJTfkl</a>
Bhutan	Bandhu Bangladesh <a href="https://www.bandhu-bd.org">https://www.bandhu-bd.org</a>
	Facebook page -YPEER Bhutan <a href="http://ypeerbhutan.org/">http://ypeerbhutan.org/</a>
Fiji	Waste warrior CNR <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/College---University/CNR-Waste-Warriors-104384821160798/">https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/College---University/CNR-Waste-Warriors-104384821160798/</a>
	Reproductive Family Health Association of Fiji <a href="https://www.facebook.com/rfhaf/">https://www.facebook.com/rfhaf/</a>

Country	Examples of young people's engagement in the implementation of SDGs
India	Heros in the Classroom Bringing in Gender Equality SAHAYOG <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RdhzD0obeA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RdhzD0obeA</a>
	Creating Gender Champions advocating with a range of stakeholders for gender equality and gender justice <a href="https://www.facebook.com/sahayoglucknow/videos/2720175994730675/">https://www.facebook.com/sahayoglucknow/videos/2720175994730675/</a>
	THE VILLAGE THAT I DREAM OF ( मेरे सपनों का गाँव ). <a href="https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2237215579693388&amp;set=pcb.2237225809692365&amp;type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2237215579693388&amp;set=pcb.2237225809692365&amp;type=3&amp;theater</a>
Mongolia	United Nations Youth Advisory Panel in Mongolia - UNYAP <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UNYAPmn/">https://www.facebook.com/UNYAPmn/</a>
Myanmar	Yangon Region Youth Affairs Committee <a href="https://www.facebook.com/2077866395632701/posts/2701368676615800/?d=n">https://www.facebook.com/2077866395632701/posts/2701368676615800/?d=n</a>
	UNFPA <a href="https://myanmar.unfpa.org/en/publications/five-year-strategic-plan-young-peoples-health-2016-2020">https://myanmar.unfpa.org/en/publications/five-year-strategic-plan-young-peoples-health-2016-2020</a>
	Myanmar Youth Network <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarYouthNetwork/?_rdc=1&amp;_rdr">https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarYouthNetwork/?_rdc=1&amp;_rdr</a>
Nepal	<a href="http://www.ngofederation.org/node/547">http://www.ngofederation.org/node/547</a>
	YUWA nepal <a href="https://www.facebook.com/YUWANepal/posts/10155615019500382">https://www.facebook.com/YUWANepal/posts/10155615019500382</a>
	Queer youth Group <a href="https://www.facebook.com/QYGnepal">https://www.facebook.com/QYGnepal</a>
	Girls 4 rural <a href="https://girls4rurals.com/">https://girls4rurals.com/</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/iMme7J4POwE">https://youtu.be/iMme7J4POwE</a>
	YPEER Nepal <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ypeernepal/posts/2674806029216506">https://www.facebook.com/ypeernepal/posts/2674806029216506</a> Mental health session
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ypeernepal/photos/pcb.2674806029216506/2674805369216572/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/ypeernepal/photos/pcb.2674806029216506/2674805369216572/?type=3&amp;theater</a>
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ypeernepal/photos/pcb.2649080628455713/2649080395122403/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/ypeernepal/photos/pcb.2649080628455713/2649080395122403/?type=3&amp;theater</a>
	<a href="https://niporeglobal.com/nrc0019-improving-conditions-for-local-tourists-to-better-vny2020-plans/?fbclid=IwAR3J4WiisDxHc3uSttDOSU_avpCu2ZrZT0XdC-xmwYJFsRXb1oos_Oyy8S0">https://niporeglobal.com/nrc0019-improving-conditions-for-local-tourists-to-better-vny2020-plans/?fbclid=IwAR3J4WiisDxHc3uSttDOSU_avpCu2ZrZT0XdC-xmwYJFsRXb1oos_Oyy8S0</a>
	Family planning associate from nepal <a href="https://youtu.be/iMme7J4POwE">https://youtu.be/iMme7J4POwE</a> strengthening young people access on developmental work campaign



Country	Examples of young people's engagement in the implementation of SDGs
Pakistan	<p>Sustainable Social Development Organisation <a href="http://www.ssdo.org.pk">www.ssdo.org.pk</a></p> <p>Raising voice over gender inequality and for marginalized communities via digital and social media. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&amp;v=2552346045054805">https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&amp;v=2552346045054805</a></p> <p>Meeting member national assembly to discuss improvements for gender inclusion at all levels.</p> <p>Meeting director minorities affair Election Commission Pakistan for electoral reforms towards marginalized communities. <a href="https://twitter.com/alirazakhan91/status/1235554983174500352">https://twitter.com/alirazakhan91/status/1235554983174500352</a></p>
The Philippines	<p>Filipino Youth Volunteer <a href="https://facebook.com/fyvc.ph/">facebook.com/fyvc.ph/</a></p> <p>YAS! organisation <a href="https://www.facebook.com/youngadvocatesforsrhr/">https://www.facebook.com/youngadvocatesforsrhr/</a></p> <p>Filipino Youth Volunteer <a href="https://facebook.com/fyvc.ph/">facebook.com/fyvc.ph/</a></p> <p>Family planning associate from nepal <a href="https://youtu.be/iMme7J4POwE">https://youtu.be/iMme7J4POwE</a> strengthening young people access on developmental work campaigning</p> <p>YAS! organisation <a href="https://www.facebook.com/youngadvocatesforsrhr/">https://www.facebook.com/youngadvocatesforsrhr/</a></p> <p>YPEER <a href="http://y-peer.org/Philippines">http://y-peer.org/Philippines</a></p>
Timor leste	<p>Association Youth Parliament of Timor-Leste. You can access our link</p> <p>Alumni Parlamentu Foina'e Timor-Leste. Edukasaun Sivika ba Foina'e Sira. 3. <a href="http://www.apftl.org">www.apftl.org</a></p>
Vietnam	<p>Hai Phong Union of Science and Technology Associations</p> <p>Implement peer education "my body, my rights" to young women and prostitutes</p> <p>Training on reproductive health topics for adolescents aged 16-24 - Implementing the project "Protection of the future" for teenagers using stimulants</p>

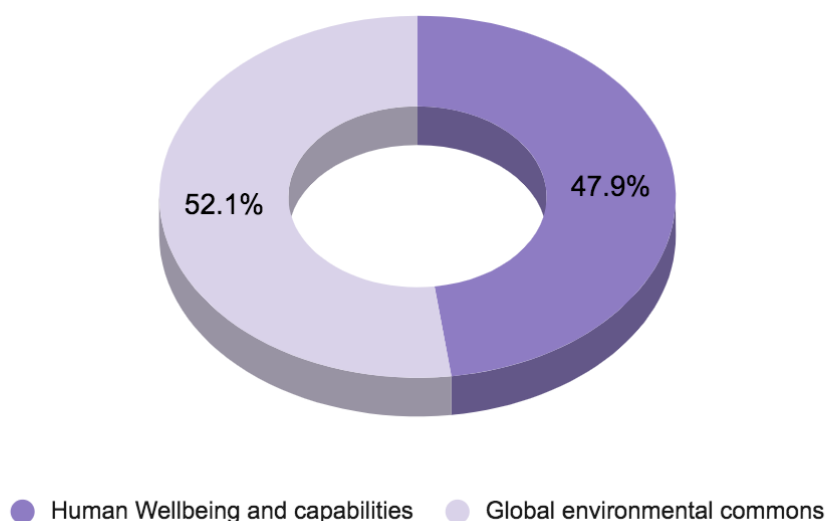
## 2.7 Entry points and levers of APFSD linked with issues of young people

When asked which entry points and levers of APFSD 2020 are linked with the issues of young people, survey respondents ranked the entry points as follows:

*Human well-being and capabilities* and *global environmental commons*<sup>4</sup> are the most highly ranked entry points and levers of APFSD, according to the survey respondents these entry points are mostly related to young people's issues.

<sup>4</sup> "Human well-being and capabilities are at the heart of the transformations envisaged by the 2030 Agenda. Health, education and life devoid of deprivations such as poverty play a critical role in determining the capability of people to make and realize

## APFSD entry points and levers linked with issues of young people



*Sustainable and just economies* and *Food systems and nutrition patterns*<sup>5</sup>, were ranked as the second most crucial entry points related to the issues of young people. *Urban and Peri urban development* and *Enhancing power grid and connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all* were indicated as the least related entry points to young people's issues.

For the survey respondents, *Human well-being and capabilities* are the most linked issue to young people, because they are key drivers and outcomes of social, economic and environmental development. In particular, health and education are crucial means of achieving the SDGs.

choices in life. Also important are the societal institutions and rule of law that allow for a peaceful society." Human well-being and capabilities UN ESCAP

"Global environmental commons refer to specific areas that fall outside of any national jurisdiction (the high seas, the atmosphere, Antarctica and outer space) as well as other commons which may lie within well defined national or regional jurisdictions, but whose continuing existence confers benefits beyond them, such as tropical rain forests, land, biodiversity and climate.ii Freshwater ecosystems and all coastal and marine ecosystems also provide these benefits. " Global environmental commons UN ESCAP

<sup>5</sup>"Shifting towards sustainable and just economies is about promoting equality of economic opportunities, especially jobs for a growing population, and decoupling economic growth from detrimental environmental outcomes. According to the UN ESCAP/ADB/UNDP report 2020, this entry point can be mapped to specific targets for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 10-Reduced Inequalities and 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.ii A few targets from other SDGs, particularly from SDG 12, are also pertinent.iii- " Sustainable and just economies UN ESCAP

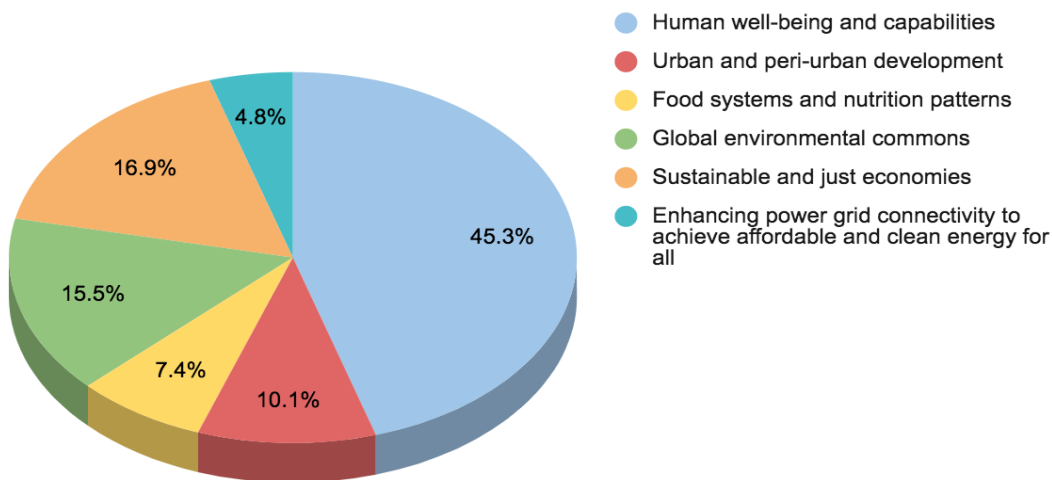
"Feeding an ever-increasing population with scarce resources and in a sustainable manner while limiting environmental pollution, lowering carbon emissions and minimizing human health risks is the persistent challenge of our times. Building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns is particularly relevant for the region where close to 489 million people remain undernourished,ii while a simultaneous rise in obesity and overweight is costing the region upwards of 0.78% of its GDP or US\$166 billion annually (...)Strengthening sustainable food systems and healthy dietary patterns integrates SDG 2- Zero Hunger; SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation; SDG 9 - Industry innovation and infrastructure; and SDG 12 – Sustainable consumption and production. It also has a major influence on SDG 3 – Good health and well-being, and links to many other SDGs." Food systems and nutrition patterns UN ESCAP

*Global environmental commons* is considered as another central entry point linked with issues of young people. The urgent need to manage how natural resources are being extracted and distributed and the possibility of lacking resources in the future represent for the respondents one of the most pressing concerns and priorities in the implementation and awareness of the SDGs.

## 2.8 Current entry point areas where respondents are working

45.3% of the respondents ranked *Human well-being and capabilities* as the most popular entry point area followed by *Sustainable and just economies* (16.9%). Despite the fact that the *Global environmental commons* was previously recognised as one of the main entry points to respond to young people's issues, it seems that it is not included in the participants most representative areas of work.

Current respondents entry points working areas



*Urban and peri Urban development* and *Enhancing power grid and connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all* remain to be the least area where young people who have taken this survey are working ; less than 20% affirmed to include these entry points in their working areas.

## 2.9 Do you have any key examples of work done from youth/ Youth Networks in the six entry points?

When asked to think of key examples of work done from youth networks in the six entry points, 55.7 % of the respondents affirmed to have an example related to youth work.

Participants were also asked to share specific examples and further develop their responses explaining their strategies in the awareness, understanding and action of their current entry-points in working with youth around the SDGs.



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The facts suggest that the majority of respondent's organisations focus on *Human well-being and capabilities* as their main entry point in the implementation of the SDGs. Most of their work is related to **SRH** for young people; aiming to provide education and knowledge related to SRHR issues. Their actions are concerned with developing youth-focused, rights-based, and inclusive programs on sexual and reproductive health and rights contributing to the implementation of Goal 3 **Health and Well-being**. Gender equality and vulnerable groups play a central role in this work - persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities and expression are not recognised in the Asia Pacific Region, suffering from stigma and exclusion and affecting young people mentally, physically, socially and economically vulnerable. Organisations aspired to give recognition to the LGBTIQ community on a national and international level to support their well-being and ensure reformation in discriminatory laws that affect young people, women and girls. A large number of organisations also work on **HIV Advocacy and vulnerable populations**; their actions aim to provide health coverage and medical care to YPHIV Young Populations living with HIV and ending stigma and discrimination. Most of their programmes typically focus on the provision of comprehensive sexuality education to adolescents and young people, evaluating and monitoring health facilities and enhancing the leadership of young women.

**Sustainable Energy and Environment** were indicated as areas linked to young people's issues, nevertheless a small number of organisations focus on environmental, climate concerns and climate actions. Their programmes address increasing the availability of energy utilities and choices to rural populations. Advocating for greener and cleaner aptitudes among young people, especially regarding girls and women. They also advocate for earth and environmental science communications, conducting online campaigns, launching of infographics, and sessions with partner schools and institutions.

In terms of strategies and interventions **National, regional and international workshops and trainings** are the most common actions for learning and implementing actions around the entry points for the SDGs. These spaces provide organisations with the opportunity of developing leadership skills; project design, and management training, but most importantly to exchange ideas and experiences with other organisations. These interventions encourage youth participation on international and national levels and empower young people to engage with sustainable development.

**Social Media and Webinars** are also part of the main strategies of the organisations, the majority of them developed campaigns to raise awareness on the implementation of SDGs and advocate for young participation in national and international decision-making processes. Especially for young people, social media was indicated as an essential tool and strategy to legitimise and empower youth networks.

Among the respondents there has been collective consent on the importance of youth networks to participate in the previously named initiatives and strategies and also on fostering their participation in consultative meetings to increase their representation among stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs.



### 3. Key achievements and gaps

The following table presents the responses by the survey respondents related to the Key achievements and gaps of governments in promoting the respective entry points.

GAPS	
Human well-being and capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of communication between local government bodies &amp; youth people. (Nepal)</li> <li>• Poor education systems, no information on gender equality, no inclusion of LGBTQ and CSE (Myanmar)</li> <li>• Limited finances for supporting youth initiatives (Mongolia)</li> <li>• Lack of comprehensive legal framework that prohibits all form of discrimination (Vietnam)</li> <li>• Lacking consultation with the youth and no direct and sustainable intervention to capacitate and strengthen the ability of the young people. (The philippines)</li> <li>• No access to healthcare <sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Lack of access to quality education and information and technology is another key factor obstructing economic well-being of women with disabilities. (Nepal)</li> </ul>
Urban and peri-urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little sustained commitment and political will, possibly too little engagement with CSOs, probably a significant rural-urban gap.</li> <li>• A high number of urban poor are men and women with disabilities, but government's programs have not been able to address their needs.</li> <li>• Anti-poor beautification of cities such as the one done in Manila City where vendors and SMME owners lost jobs and businesses without any support from the government. (The philippines)</li> </ul>
Food systems and nutrition patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited finances for supporting youth initiatives focused on food systems.</li> </ul>
Global environmental commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of proper budget allocation</li> <li>• Lack of interest in Global climate change (Pollution)</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> Statements without a reference to a specific country indicate that the affirmation was made from multiple countries

## GAPS

Sustainable and just economies

- Targeting disadvantaged groups for skills development, building a skilled and well-informed workforce, advancing the issue of workplace safety and proper work environment. (Bangladesh)

Enhancing power grid connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all

- Non-renewable energy in rural areas.
- Limited inclusion and development of renewable energy in rurals.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Human well-being and capabilities

- Increased public awareness on human well-being and capabilities SDGs
- Creation of network for the development and promotion of the SDGs.
- Bringing together the private sector and the UN together. The best example which we can see and more visible was to involve AIRLINES (YETI AIRLINES) as one of the ways to share SDGs information<sup>7</sup>. (Nepal)
- The government has set country-specific plans and programs based on SDGs and the entry points.
- Nepal's national level youth development plans follow the SDGs guidelines.
- Inclusion of the Third Gender in Mainstream by giving right to vote (Bangladesh)
- Passage of some key legislation on child rights and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health ASRH such as the New HIV Law where stigma and discrimination are tackled (The Philippines)
- Adoption of the Action Plan on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. (The Philippines)
- Poverty alleviation, gender equality and empowering women

Urban and peri-urban development

- Strengthening provincial monitoring and reporting capacities on SDGs - resources have been allocated for SDGs and Innovative solutions/approaches to accelerate progress on prioritized SDGs. (Pakistan)
- Signing of a law that aims to create the Department of Housing and Urban Development which aims to provide accessible housing to Filipinos. (The Philippines)

<sup>7</sup> Yeti airline news: <https://www.yetiairlines.com/news/sdgs-take-off-in-nepal-s-skies-with-un-development-programme-airline-partnership>





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Food systems  
and nutrition  
patterns

- Introduced economical, food and health support programs to end hunger and support the poor.

Global  
environmental  
commons

- Increasing sustainable production and consumption
- Zero waste Programme (Singapore)
- Filing of the Special Mechanisms for the volcano areas act which seeks to mandate LGUs to designate safe zones for evacuation and allocate funds and other projects relating to volcanic disasters. (The philippines)

Sustainable and  
just economies

- Increasing sustainable production and consumption
- Ensuring inclusive economic growth
- Adoption of the Action Plan on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. (The philippines)
- Bhutan has established a Gross National Happiness Commission. Gross National Happiness (GNH) is the principle idea of measuring development, and considered more important than GDP. GNH and SDGs are closely connected as both have a people and planet centric outlook regarding sustainable development.

Enhancing  
power grid  
connectivity to  
achieve  
affordable and  
clean energy for  
all

- According to the National decree, more than 60% of Bhutan's land should be covered in forest. Today, Bhutan has met and even exceeded this target, thus making Bhutan the only carbon negative country in the world.
- Bhutan generates renewable energy via hydropower projects.

Overall, the majority of respondents recognised an increasing effort of governments to include the SDGs in their political agendas and implement them as guidelines in their national level action plans. Nevertheless, there is a general consensus on an existing lack of youth participation. Most of the respondents hope to gain more participation in governmental processes and the awareness of the SDGs.

### 3.1 Effective ways a Youth Statement could reach the national government and national delegations in the main APFSD

The majority of the respondents believe that yearly meetings, conferences and events that promote youth participation and a significant exchange with stakeholders through interactive dialogues between members of the parliament and government officials, are the most effective ways to reach national governments and national delegations. Some of the respondents highlighted the importance of cooperating with the UN, so that governments are more likely to accept their contributions.

Social media was also referred as one of the key influencers to call for action to engagement, sharing the information through these channels would reach diverse national government bodies and relevant actors of national delegations. One central aspect is to create content and campaigns in different languages in order to make the information more accessible and reach more people.

Cross-sectoral engagement is also essential regarding the creation of national policies; this would enable broader data collection and the development of a stronger evidence-based youth statement. A small number of the participants also mentioned the significance of collaborating with CSOs to be also included in their decision making processes .

Some of the respondents also included the following examples as effective ways of reaching national government and national delegations in the main APFSD.

- Allowing youth to set up a booth at UN ESCAP events placing informative stands at the entrance of the conference rooms to approach the people.
- Publishing the youth statement in a booklet form and sharing it with the government representatives and national delegations in the main APFSD Forum.
- Invite and work together with the local media, asking them to publish youth statements and relevant information on the SDGs.
- Amplifying the voices of the marginalized youth through collective action and online and offline surveys.



## 4. Online youth consultation

During this last section of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to show their preferences related to the logistics and content of the next youth consultation Webinar on APFSD.

A significant number of survey respondents (94.9%) would be interested in attending the youth consultations on APFSD 2020. The majority of the respondents (58.2%) agree on the Zoom application as the most suitable digital platform to host the webinar, followed by Skype and Google Meet. According to the results, the webinar should take place on April 12 from 10am to 3pm Pakistan time/ 12-5pm Jakarta and Bangkok Time and 1pm-6pm Kuala Lumpur Time. Reflecting the importance of *Human well-being and capabilities*, respondents would like to focus on this entry point during the webinar. The top two additional topics where they also would like to focus on are *Environmental commons* (46.8%) and *Sustainable and just economies* (41.8%).



## 5. Key findings and recommendations

The Online Youth Survey Ahead of Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2020 has outlined some exciting and essential trends visible across the Asia Pacific Region. If correctly interpreted and implemented, the results of this report can provide perspectives on young people's engagement in the APFSD 2020 theme and knowledge on ways to ensure their participation in the SDGs implementation processes in the Asia Pacific Region.

### Key Findings

In the following section, this report shares how young people can contribute towards an engagement and a better understanding of young perspectives on the processes and themes of the APFSD 2020. The majority of respondents of this survey are from South Asia (43.2%) and indicated to be involved in their working areas for 2-5 years (51.9%).

### Work with youth networks or organisations as partners

The importance of working with youth networks as implementing partners was recognised and frequently named by the participants as a key element to making a positive and a powerful impact on engaging youth in the promotion and implementation of the SDGs. 79% of the respondents affirmed to indicate this area as the most representative working area. Youth networks offer not only a new mindset and orientation towards the whole attempt but also the



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advantage of greater social proximity, familiarity and awareness of young people's issues and the ability to understand and relate to youth in innovative and attractive ways. Young people could act as *connectors* in person or on online platforms to communicate the message of the SDGs, contributing towards their monitoring, implementation and mobilising others to contribute to its awareness.

Data also showed that (69.6%) of the participants consider gender equality and empowerment as the second most representative area of work among participants. In this sense, it is essential to promote gender equality and empowerment among girls and women as a priority in the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Asia Pacific agenda to make sure that the current working areas of youth are being represented.

### Human well-being and capabilities and global environmental goods

52.1% of the participants are currently working and supporting this entry-level, sharing their actions and efforts in developing a whole range of relevant skills to ensure human well-being: leadership, decision making, teamwork, communication, project development and self-confidence are some of the capabilities addressed by young people to ensure their engagement in the implementation of the SDGs. Most of their work is related to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for young people; the organisations' aim to provide education and knowledge related to SRHS issues. In this concern, capacity strengthening and gender equality are vital tools towards the achievement of human well-being, and at the same time and according to 44% of respondents, an extremely effective way of engagement for young people.

*Global Environmental commons* was also indicated by the respondents (47.9%) as one of the most relevant entry-levels linked to young people's issues. This response highlights the next generations' belief that collective action is needed to combat climate change; one of the main concerns among the respondents is air pollution and its health risk. Respondents exposed their initiatives to strengthen political commitment and young participation for the protection of the environment.

However, the facts also suggest that this entry-level is one of the less common working areas among the participants. In this sense, it would be fair to conclude that there is an opportunity to establish strategies to include the *Global Environmental commons* entry point in future responses in relation to the implementation of the SDGs. 94.9% of the participants would like to attend the next youth consultations on APFSD 2020 and focus on: *Global environmental commons* (46.8%) and *Sustainable and just economies* (41.8%). The next APFSD consultation might be an opportunity to discuss strategies and ideas on how to include *global environmental commons* in young people's working areas.

## Ensure youth participation on a regional, national and international level

A significant part of the findings showed that young people are prepared, willing and able to collaborate on regional, national and international levels. The achievement and implementations of the SDGs can be accelerated if there is a commitment to listen to and recognise the initiatives of young people, especially those that consider and encourage the ideas of minorities and youths from different social and economic backgrounds.

Given the strong networking capabilities among young people, national and international stakeholders and governments should consider including them into their reviewing and decision-making processes in order to help promote and create further awareness of the SDGs.

## Social media and websites

The majority of respondents think that implementing social media campaigns to increase the awareness of the SDGs and engage young people in the reviewing processes of the development goals, is one of the essential strategies enabling young organisations to reach an extended number of people and provide understandable information on the SDGs. Most of their provided examples were related to social media campaigns or websites. (See table 2.6)

## Ways of ensuring meaningful and inclusive young people engagement in the APFSD processes including the SDG follow up and review

Across the survey, respondents highlighted the following actions as the most relevant ones in order to ensure the engagement of young people in the APFSD:

- The majority of survey respondents agree that a measure to ensure meaningful participation in the review mechanisms is by organizing regional, national and international forums and meetings allowing youth interaction and exchange with national governments and experts.
- Thirty-five respondents believe that regional, national and international consultations with stakeholders are extremely effective in engaging young people in the UN Government processes related to the SDGs.
- Thirty-five respondents also considered that face-to-face interactions and updates in different levels of local government are extremely effective ways of engagement in the government processes related to the SDGs.
- Organising regional, national and international Forums and meetings thereby facilitating youth interaction and exchange with national governments and experts.
- Providing support to young people's initiatives and actions through adequate budget and allocation of resources to ensure the effectiveness of implementations.
- Lobbying and advocating for the creation of a legitimate and claimed space for youths to be engaged in SDGs at all levels (federal, provincial, local).
- Providing respected space for consultation, engagement, planning, implementation and monitoring of LGBTQ+ community with respect to SDGs and the entry points.



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## **Perspectives of young people's engagement in the APFSD 2020 theme "Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in The Asia Pacific".**

There was a strong agreement among the respondents for the need of increasing youth participation in the SDGs reviewing mechanisms and especially in marginalised groups and minorities, such as queer people. However, the majority of the respondents value and recognize the entry points as potential strategies to increase their participation and representation in the implementation of the SDGs.

The respondents of this survey considered the following actions, perspectives and strategies as essential in the young people's engagement in the APFSD 2020 theme.

- Approach youth initiatives, participation and engagement as an essential principle of 2030 agenda in the Asia Pacific.
- Strengthening youth agency by supporting capacity development for young people, youth organisation , networks and movements, enhancing mutual responsibility trust and collaboration in the implementation of the SDGs.
- The majority of organisations focus on national/local/grassroots initiatives and projects, their primary and most representative focus areas are Youth people (79.7%), Gender equality and empowerment (69.6%) and Quality Education (60.8%). The 2030 Asia Pacific should support and pay special attention to these areas to give continuity to the previous work carried out by youth initiatives and ensure the participation of young people.
- Promote gender equality and empowerment among girls and women as a priority in the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Asia Pacific agenda.
- Establish the necessary channels to ensure youth participation in SDGs action.

Data has shown that the most effective youth development efforts and impacts are founded on national and local initiatives, together with the particular needs of young people in different communities. Governments and stakeholders need, therefore, to cooperate with and support existing initiatives and networks at a grassroots and national levels that contribute to the development of the 2030 agenda, making sure they are not leaving anyone behind. The APFSD 2020 theme "Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia Pacific" offers an essential opportunity to advance youth participation and development in the context of the SDGs, providing them with a space to thrive and raise their ideas, issues and policies.





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## SUMMARY OF THE CO-CONVENORS OF THE APFSD YOUTH FORUM

The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women's vision is to create a resource center that would enable women to better define and control their lives. The organisation has been working closely with many national partners in countries, regional and global networks around the world, reaching stakeholders in 120 Countries.

**ARROW:** ARROW is a regional, feminist, Global South non-profit women's organisation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). ARROW works towards an equal, just, and equitable world that enables all women and young people to be equal citizens in all aspects of their lives, and that protects and advances their sexual and reproductive health and rights. ARROW's vision is an equally just and equitable world, where every woman and young person enjoys their full sexual and reproductive rights. ARROW has been championing gender equality and SRHR for more than 25 years in the region.

**Youth LEAD:** the Asia Pacific regional network of and for young key populations (YKP) most affected by HIV, working on the areas of capacity development, advocacy and strategic partnership.

**YPEER Asia Pacific Center:** Y-PEER is a network of Young People and organisations working in the sector of Young People's Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) & other issues through Peer Education approach since 1999. In Asia Pacific Y-PEER works in more than 15 countries providing support to youth activists and networks to build their capacity on SRHR.



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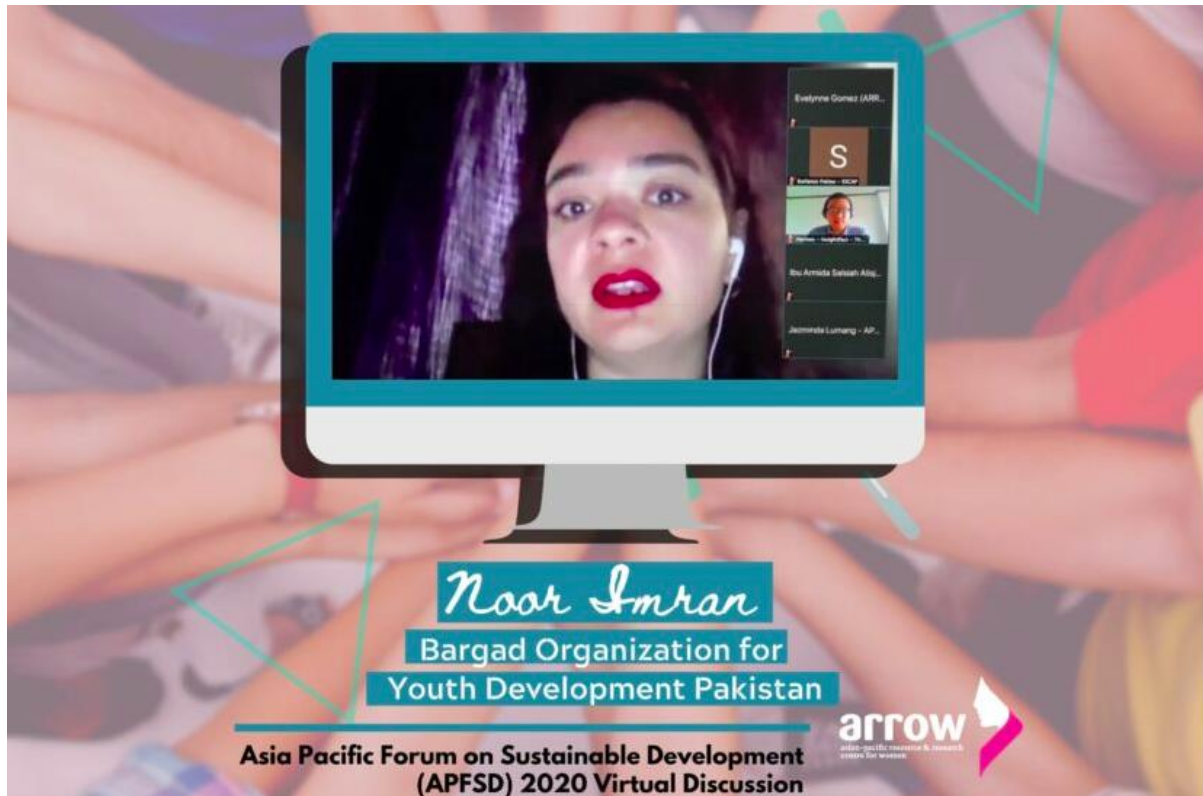


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## Annex I

### Youth Intervention at APFSD 2020 Virtual Discussion Noor Imrans statement



Excellencies, distinguished guests, fellow civil society members. Good Afternoon!

I am Noor Imran, a young advocate representing young people from the Asia Pacific region that would like to deliver an intervention. I am from Pakistan- a country that was the first to integrate the SDGs into its national development agenda in February 2016 while having its first VNR only last year in 2019.

At this moment, as a young person I am overwhelmed with the unprecedented impact of the COVID19 crises, the public health impact of the crises that has transcended globally. Measures such as lockdowns have specific impact on young people, their well-being and access to health services including essential Sexual and Reproductive Health services. Social distancing measures are also a privilege in our context and this holds true for the more marginalised communities.

Young people are currently facing financial impacts such as job losses which not only impact our economic but also our physical, and mental well-being. I am worried about how long I will be allowed to work from home while my advocacy requires me to seek out human contact. The Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, in which four levers of change are identified as: governance; economy and finance; individual and collective action; and science and technology and six transformative entry points or areas are identified to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals which we are all here to deliberate upon.

In the 2030 Agenda, it is emphasized that bold and transformative steps are required to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.

We as young people now more than ever recognise<sup>[1]</sup> the need for transformational approaches to deal with the region's complexity, given the embedded structural and systemic barriers, rising inequalities and fundamentalisms, climate change impact the region faces leading to further marginalisation, elite capture, social conflict, institutional inertia or harmful sociocultural norms.

It would not be wrong to say that the entire Asia-Pacific region is still grappling with food insecurity, low basic education, lack of social infrastructures, increased vulnerabilities to climate change related disasters, conflict, lack of decent employment even for educated youth. The rising culture and religious fundamentalisms have further created systemic barriers in the implementation of laws and policies that address deeply rooted gender inequality including in realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights for especially women and young people. As a young girl who has been confined by a self-isolating home with little to no mobility, I worry about the more marginalised young girls on whom these restrictions have greater impact such as the ones in rural settings who are more exposed to domestic violence now than before. Forced, child and early marriages, female genital mutilation and cutting, gender-based violence against women and girls and freedom to express one's sexuality without stigma discrimination and violence all particularly impact young people and adolescents. We are not on track to achieve all the targets that comprise the sustainable development goals. As a young person living in a low-income developing country my biggest concern right now other than contracting COVID-19 is the debilitating and endangered supply of contraceptives. The birth control pill I use has already doubled in price. Also, in times of crisis such as this, forced and unwanted pregnancies and the need to seek safe abortion and care increases. With resources and healthcare force being redirected to attend to the COVID crisis, the current situation further challenges the already limited access to timely and safe abortion for many women and girls in my region.

Several countries in the region, especially in South Asia, are still struggling to raise the legal national age of marriage to 18 despite having committed to do so in the UPR and CEDAW review processes. Countries are reluctant to implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education despite rising cases of child abuse, rape and murder every single year including negative reproductive health outcomes. Also, youth friendly health services and gender sensitive sexual and reproductive health and rights services which are among the most significant issues affecting young people's health and well-being are yet to be fully addressed.

We are in the last decade of the Sustainable Development Agenda and we are reminded time and time again of the goal we set out for ourselves: Goal 17 which iterates the need to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together national governments, the international community, civil societies, the private sector and other agencies. This current crisis is another reminder of how we have forgotten about our responsibilities and commitments to Goal 17.

Our regional progress on all six transformative entry points of Global environment commons, Urban and peri-urban development, Energy access and decarbonisation, sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition, sustainable and just economies and Human well-being and capabilities is way behind target. It is important that Governments conduct deeper national performance analyses to understand what works in some areas but not in others, and why countries could be exceeding in one entry point and lacking in another.

Hospitals at the moment are not catering to any elective procedures and SRHR, especially in a country that does not recognise the need for it, has been deprioritised. As a result of a survey that I conducted with other young people in 2017 for the alternative UPR report for my country, better access to information on sexual and reproductive health was identified as the top concern for their sexual health and focus from that has been completely shifted amidst the crisis. The sexual and gender minorities already marginalised are further pushed away now. Lack of sustainable resources force out these conditions in the community.

It will take a serious political will and governmental resolve to work across all sectors as a collective unit to accelerate transformations. As a young person advocating for SRHR for 4 years now at platforms like the APFSD, HRC and the UPR, I feel defeated by the COVID-19 crisis and our region's response to the situation. I wrote this statement in a country on lockdown where driving out for groceries seems to be apocalyptic. Strategies to accelerate transformations need to be developed right now! We do not have time to observe and evolve anymore. We are not equipped to deal with a situation like Italy, Spain or China region wide.

Political will of the Member States in the region is crucial as we need holistic implementation of the Agenda 2030 in the region. It is important to not look at the SDGs in silos but work in the interlinkages, and the methodology of entry points and levers as a good starting point, which countries can implement to address the social, environment and economic dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated manner. We also need the science and technology interface to inform evidence-based policy making and cooperation among stakeholders. We need to ensure social protection systems are in place and universal health coverage is secure for all people in the region.

We have spent half a decade committing and reviewing our targets under the SDGs. Had we developed sustainable food systems; we would not be panic buying basic staples to survive COVID-19. We must learn from this crisis and accelerate the transformation while we still have a chance to do so.

As a young advocate I am concerned about youth participation at the regional and global level discussions on sustainable development. I have been a part of the Pre-APFSD Youth consultation every year since 2017. On such short notice when the virtual consultation has been announced, I fear many of my fellow young advocates will not be able to voice their concerns anymore. We are however, committed to organising a youth consultation post this consultation. However, as I am making this intervention through this virtual means, I am also aware of the fact that there is a large demographic of young people who do not have accessibility and capacity to facilities. The member states must ensure meaningful youth participation in this process by recognising that young people are not a homogenous group; their realities are diverse and so are their needs. We must therefore be inclusive while we accelerate transformations and this cannot be achieved without the inclusion of about 670



million young people living in Asia and the Pacific which is the largest number of young people globally in any region.

I end this intervention by expressing my hope that the member states will not overlook the issue of young people especially in this crisis and that our voices are heard not just in the outcome of this virtual consultation but in the laws and policies and its implementation at the national level.

Thank you.



## Annex II

### Youth inputs to APFSD 2020 chairs summary



**The APFSD Youth Constituency Input/Statement addressing questions that will go into different parts of the Chairs' Summary**

**By the Co-convenors of the APFSD Youth Forum- ARROW, YouthLEAD , YPEER, and the Right Here Right Now youth partnership in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan and youth networks in the region**

The Asia Pacific region is home to the largest number of young people globally, about 670 million, who face intersecting challenges and marginalizations. According to recent estimates, extreme poverty in the region has decreased. However, more than 900 million people in the region are still impoverished when seen through multidimensional poverty measures, and the majority of them are young, living in rural areas, and engaged in low income agriculture-related workforce.

The effects of climate related crises and disasters are experienced by everyone, including the young people. Furthermore, the region has been experiencing religious extremism and fundamentalism, right-wing conservatism and populism, conflict and natural disasters, and aggressive trade policies. The region also continues to have a poor record on gender equality,



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which is rooted in systemic and structural inequalities, unequal power relations, and the control of sexuality impacting young women and girls disproportionately.

Majority of the countries do not recognise the rights of persons with diverse sexual orientations and same-sex marriage and relationships are criminalised in most countries in the region. Gender-based violence and violence against people with non-binary gender identities is alarmingly high. Young people in these situations are especially affected. Intersecting challenges faced by young people hinder livelihoods and access to affordable and quality medicines, health services including HIV and AIDS, contraception and safe abortion, education, nutrition, and healthy food systems.

**We, young people from across the region, share our thoughts on the following questions to be included in the APFSD 2020 Chairs' Summary**

### **1. Where have we progressed the most?**

The importance of sustained and meaningful involvement of young people in all their diversities are increasingly recognised especially in the regional processes particularly at the APFSD which has a dedicated APFSD Youth Forum for the young people instituted. Developments of more youth focused policies, formation of councils to address young people's issues and introduction of national mechanisms to gather inputs from the youth group for country VNRs are some of the examples from this region.

Young people have participated in the regional APFSD Process every year since 2017 through the APFSD Youth Forum and APFSD intergovernmental processes. The presence of this civic space dedicated to young people has enabled relatively meaningful youth participation. The APRCEM dedicated youth constituency space has emerged as an important platform for youth engagement, providing a voice for youth partners from countries in the region.

At the national level, in some countries, young people are involved in the SDG localisation and information dissemination at all levels of government.

With some countries in the region officially recognising trans persons, this has opened up space for young gender diverse people to voice their rights on gender inclusivity.

Some Governments have involved young people in the VNR processes. Moving forward the consistent involvement of youth led and youth serving CSOs, annually beyond VNR consultations should be institutionalised, and interlinkages with other UN processes such as CSW, CPD, should be fostered. Young people are concerned around the sustainability of meaningful youth engagement in the long term at national and regional level.

### **2. What are the most important challenges in seeking to accelerate transformations?**

Lack of inclusivity across all genders, sexual orientation, age groups, and marginalised communities remains as one of the most important challenges in accelerating transformations in this region. The structural dimensions of marginalisation faced by young people has resulted in wider inequalities in relation to healthcare access, education, and employment, leaving



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young people at the margins. Young people residing in rural areas continue to face inequalities of opportunities. Majority of the migrants in the region are of younger working age, and 13 percent of all migrants in the region are younger than 20.

Lack of disaster prevention, mitigation and adaptation strategies, continue to pervade, aggravating crises and disaster situations such as the current COVID19 pandemic.

Environment and climate issues are less prioritised by government and stakeholders and young people are not involved in decision making spaces. Many cities in the region are highly polluted and impact the health and well-being of young persons.

Young people do not have any capital or financial resources and as a result of that they are not being able to build bigger and sustainable networks or forums.

Lack of gender equality, prevalence of discriminatory and harmful practices such as child early forced marriages and Female Genital Mutilation/ cutting practices affect young women and girls. There is an alarming rise in gender-based violence against people from gender diverse communities and minorities. Challenges further persist around gender equality, gender identity, misconception around SRHR, and menstruation. Patriarchal norms continue to discriminate against young women and girls.

Lack of political will remains a key challenge.

### **3. On each entry point, what are the actions that can be taken to address challenges and accelerate implementation of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific?**

Human well-being and capabilities: Health, Education and a life free from deprivations is not an issue just for our specific region however with 60% of the population, and 60% of young people residing in the Asia Pacific, a lack of this affects this region the most.

There is a need for systemic and structural changes within countries to address well-being and capabilities acknowledging realities faced by young people by prioritising human rights across all divisions. There is a need to address gaps in gender and social inclusion especially LGBTIQ+ community.

Young people focused on gender friendly and anti-discriminatory laws and policies need to be implemented. Local level youth advocates are building movements in their communities on gender equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and they need to be supported with resources, capacities and knowledge building opportunities.

Universal access to well-being and capabilities including social protection, access to food and optimal nutrition, universal access to education, water and sanitation, health including sexual and reproductive health in a just and gender equal world is our call.

**Sustainable and just economies:** Young people are left behind when it comes to sustainable and just economies. Youth in the Asia Pacific region remain unemployed, and lack access to



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decent work in large numbers. There is a need to encourage entrepreneurship and the use of technology to absorb this influx of unemployment that perpetuates unjust economies.

**Food systems and nutrition patterns:** There is a need to place importance on healthy and sustainable diet quality and nutrition, address undernutrition and micronutrient deficiency especially among adolescents, in a way that the governments are able to build and provide sustainable food systems while ensuring food sovereignty. The discrimination needs to be tackled by using the equality and equity-based approaches. Implementing the existing food safety related laws and policies could be the entry points.

**Energy decarbonisation and universal access:** There is a dire need to explore cleaner options for energy. The region is disproportionate in this aspect whereby some countries have discovered options to reduce gas emissions and provide universal access for their countries however most of the region still relies on fossil fuel energy. There is a need for stricter laws and heavier penalisation for not working towards decarbonisation and innovative approaches to tackle the issue. Additionally, a need to collaborate with the government to create evidence-based awareness materials and young people need to be included in all these initiatives.

**Urban and peri-urban development:** There is a need to work on sustainable solutions for urban and peri urban development. Again, the use of technology and giving young people the platform to contribute to solutions towards urban and peri urban development is key. Equal access to information and services need to be ensured.

**Global environmental commons:** There is a need for greater international pressure to ensure accountability in the region in this area. Creating knowledge-based platforms to build knowledge and capacity of the CSOs and youths' groups who are working in local communities and local government authorities remains key. Involving the young religious leaders, youth scholars for advocacy on gender issues and climate related issues will have more impact.

#### **4. What are effective approaches to enable transformation?**

Dedicated mechanisms to ensure inclusive young people's meaningful engagement such as national and regional youth planning commissions including for gathering inputs, young people's involvement in the decision-making process and monitoring of proper and full implementation of SDGs are crucial. More field level capacity building workshops in the local and national levels reaching out to a larger youth group is key. Universities are a good place to start capacity building activities for young people.

Discussions around policy formulation and implementation at all levels must involve young people. SDGs must be made a national agenda and young people should be engaged in all action plans and programmes developed by the government and other stakeholders. Awareness building of stakeholders to understand and acknowledge the importance of diversity and meaningful engagement of young people will enable transformation. National consultations building from the APFSD Youth Forum needs to be integrated into the formal system at the national level to further ensure young people's involvement.



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A sharper focus on SDG17 is required to strengthen regional partnership and collaboration among countries to accelerate transformation, to ensure no country in the region is left behind in the process.

Expanding civic space for meaningful youth participation, translation of SDGs into local language, effective use of social media is crucial for transformation.

Data systems, including SDG indicators data collected across all disaggregation including age is an effective approach to enable transformation. Citizen generated data, CSOs researches, independent reports by researchers and experts should be considered by governments. The active involvement of the youth ministry by introducing a youth engagement cell or department will be a good way forward. Systematic and continued involvement of Young People in National Level VNR and other processes has to be institutionalised.

### **5. What are some of the most inspiring examples of action by Governments and other stakeholders in advancing people-centred, environmentally sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific?**

The annual APFSD Youth Forum convened by ARROW, YouthLead, and YPEER prior to the APFSD as part of the official ESCAP process is exemplary in crafting a unique, meaningful opportunity for greater involvement of the youth in the monitoring and review process of SDGs at the regional level. It is a regional space created to acknowledge the key role young people play in shaping a holistic response and solutions to the SDGs.

At the national level, it is crucial for governments to not only adopt the SDGs as its national agenda but it is equally important to ensure there are follow up mechanisms at all departments and at all levels to effectively plan and implement the 2030 agenda with involvement of young people.

#### **Some country level examples:**

Pakistan is the first country in the region to adopt the 2030 Agenda as its national agenda in the National Assembly.

Nepal is the first country in the region to sign up for voluntary national review (VNR) for the second time. The National Planning Commission (NPC) takes the lead in VNR ensuring the involvement of CSOs through the NGO Federation in the VNR processes from the early stage. CSOs are engaged in the data and information collection process by the NPC. In

Bangladesh, BRAC's initiative in engaging men in combating violence against women and girls is a good example. As a result, positive changes were seen in the areas of interventions. Men are sensitised, and this happened because it was a holistic approach, where the faith leaders (i.e. Imams) were also involved in the awareness raising in the process.





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## **6. What have been important benefits of the VNR processes, in particular for second time presenters?**

The VNR process is one of the most powerful and transparent monitoring and accountability mechanisms to remind member states of their global commitments. It gives all stakeholders an opportunity to reflect on a nation's progress, gaps and challenges and further strategies to respond to the gaps. The VNR is also an important advocacy space for CSOs in the light of shrinking CSO spaces in this region.

The VNR follow up and review process provides opportunities for all stakeholders to come together at the national consultations and also at the regional and global platforms to critically work towards the Agenda 2030 implementation. For the 2nd time VNR countries, this provides an opportunity for follow-up progress from the last VNR and prepares the next action plan. This process creates a sense of accountability and transparency.

## **7. What are best practices and examples of peer support from member countries in the VNR preparatory process?**

Some best practices include the South Asian Forum for SDG in Nepal and the coming together of ASEAN countries to strengthen their position in the VNR preparation is another good example.

## **8. How can different stakeholders contribute to strengthening local, national, global and regional follow up and review (including VLR and VNR, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and High-level Political forum on Sustainable Development)?**

The government, the civil society, the political representation, the youth and the general public have a major role to play in the review and follow up process. The global commitments serve as progressive norms and standards which CSOs including youth led and youth serving organisations can utilise to advocate for institutionalisation at the national level, and demand accountability from the government.

CSOs and Youth networks can formally provide inputs in the reporting, VNR consultations and enable engagement with the government to improve the SDG implementation at the national level.

Regional bodies such as the UN can support the development of open and common platforms where the progress and initiatives of each government are listed and reviewed to enable learning exchanges.

## **9. What are the transboundary issues on which more regional action is needed?**

Collaboration at the transboundary level, on all entry points, is crucial cutting across economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields including migration, financing flows, communicable diseases, crime, and conflicts. In the current times, climate change and for issues like Covid-19 there should be a system for regional collaboration, budget and a systematic approach in combating common issues in a common transboundary platform. Trade, agriculture, learning exchanges on the entry points and the levers will also be crucial.





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Transboundary issues also cut across fostering peace and stability in the region and addressing conflict in the region.

**10. What are some of the most important “trends to watch” as governments shape their policy response?**

Youth bulge and demographic dividend impact in the region.

Current rise in epidemics and pandemics resulting in a significant economic and social fall out among young people.

Climate impact on the environment, people and planet.

Mostly the commitments especially in the area of SRHR are diluted to suit the local contexts which results in many different compromises. Similar is the situation of certain human rights issues, increasing fundamentalism, and ethno-religious nationalism is further impeding access to gender and SRHR progress in the region.

Working towards universal health coverage offers an opportunity to address gaps in the HIV response, such as people living with HIV in TB clinics, in sexual reproductive health services, in antenatal care and within services for noncommunicable diseases.

**11. What specific actions could governments and other stakeholders put forward in support of a global decade of action?**

Key actions include a collaboration at the regional level of developing countries to learn from their experiences and develop a global conscience and collective action mechanism.

Collaborations are also crucial among government and CSOs and other stakeholders towards implementation and monitoring of SDGs.

Ensure meaningful and inclusive youth participation at all levels of decision making at national, regional and global levels in a safe and respectful environment. Enable access of young people to government initiatives.

Capacity strengthening of youth, and involving young people in decision making structures and enabling opportunities in policy formulation and implementation including research and evidence-based advocacy, including utilising the full potential of youths who are in the grassroots level. Youth led and youth serving CSOs and other stakeholders need to have capacities to input into reporting mechanisms and develop alternative reports with clear evidence-based data.

Building sustainable knowledge and technology-based platforms for youths. Disseminate best practices and stories that are working effectively to amplify the impact. Intersectionality based approach should be harnessed to define and implement effective strategies.

Transparency in work plans, in order for young people to be able to see where their strengths can lead to accelerated action. Develop people-centred community delivery models.



Community health workers, peer networks and other community-led service delivery should make use of the experience of networks of people living with HIV and other civil society organisations in ensuring that services reach the people who need them.



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## Annex III

### Survey questions

1. **First Name**
2. **Surname**
3. **Gender**
  - Female
  - Male
  - Prefer not to say
4. **Age**
5. **Nationality**
6. **Preferred pronouns**
7. **E mail Address**
8. **Contact number (Country code + Number)**
9. **Organisation**
10. **Job title**
11. **Scope of organisations work**
  - International
  - Regional
  - National/Local/Grassroots
12. **What is the focus area of your work?**
  - Young people/Youth
  - Poverty and Hunger
  - Gender equality
  - Quality Education (Including Comprehensive Sexuality Education and SRHR)
  - Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth
  - Climate Change / Environment
  - Research
  - Human Rights
  - Sustainable Development
  - Inequalities and Inclusion
  - Sustainable Production and Consumption
  - Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions
  - SOGIESC
  - Youth Friendly Health Services
13. **How long have you been involved in your area of work?**
  - Less than 2 years
  - 2 - 5 years
  - More than 5 years



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**14. In your opinion, what is the best way to reach young people and share information about the progress or updates on the SDGs by the UN / National Government?**

- National youth mechanism on SDGs
- Social media and official government / other websites
- Youth Networks
- Other Organisations (CSOs, Semi national government agencies)

**15. In your opinion, how can young people at the national level engage more effectively in the UN / Government processes in regards to the SDGs? Rate the following in order of effectiveness with 1 being the least effective option and 5 being the most effective option.**

- Face-to-face Interactions and Meetings / Updates in different levels (National/state level/local government)
- Capacity Strengthening and raising awareness of young people on SDGs and the follow up and review processes at regional and national level
- Online and offline Youth surveys and other engagement forums
- Including SDGs in education curricula or other means of sharing information
- Participation in the national/ sub-national consultations on SDGs organised by respective governments

**16. What are the current engagement mechanisms that you as (young people) are directly or indirectly involved in with regards to the SDGs review process at national, regional and global level, or in providing suggestions to the government?**

**17. Please provide any links and examples of your current engagements that you are aware of (Max 3)**

**18. Which entry points and levers of APFSD 2020 that are linked with the issues of young people are you aware of on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum)?**

- Human well-being and capabilities
- Sustainable and just economies
- Food systems and nutrition patterns
- Enhancing power grid connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all
- Urban and peri-urban development
- Global environmental commons

**19. Which entry point area are you currently working on?**

- Human well-being and capabilities
- Sustainable and just economies
- Food systems and nutrition patterns
- Enhancing power grid connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all
- Urban and peri-urban development
- Global environmental commons



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**20. Reflect further on your work in this entry point**

**21. In your opinion, what are the key achievements and gaps of your own government / local government in promoting the above SDG themes and entry points? (Provide any links or information where possible)**

**22. Please suggest an effective way a Youth Statement could reach the national government as well as the national delegations in the main APFSD Forum**

**23. Do you have any key examples of work done from Youth / Youth Networks in the six entry points?**

- Yes
- No

**24. If yes, please provide a brief description and a link (i.e link of video, Facebook posts, Twitter posts, blogs which were shared publicly)**

**25. Do you have any other examples and links you are aware of that may be useful for other youths? (i.e Any apps, web platforms, regular newsletters, etc. related to SDGs from Governments, the UN, private sectors, others )**

**26. What are your recommendations for meaningful and inclusive engagement of young people in the implementation of SDG agenda in your context?**

**27. Are you interested in joining the youth consultations on APFSD 2020?**

- Yes
- No

**28. If yes, what application do you prefer for the webinar?**

- Zoom
- Skype
- Google Meet
- Others

**29. Which of the following dates would work the best for you to attend the webinar?  
The timing of the five hour webinar would be: 10am - 3pm (Pakistan Time) || 12-5pm (Jakarta/BKK Time) || 1pm - 6pm (Kuala Lumpur Time)**

- 10 April (Friday)
- 11 April (Saturday)
- 12 April (Sunday)

**30. What main topic would you like to focus on in the webinar?**

- Human well-being and capabilities



- Sustainable and just economies
- Food systems and nutrition patterns
- Enhancing power grid connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all
- Urban and peri-urban development
- Global environmental commons

**31. Choose TWO additional topics you would like to focus on in the webinar:**

- Human well-being and capabilities
- Sustainable and just economies
- Food systems and nutrition patterns
- Enhancing power grid connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all
- Urban and peri-urban development
- Global environmental commons

**32. Would you like to be a speaker on any of the entry points mentioned above?**

- Yes
- No