Guide for major group and other stakeholders participation

Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
20 May 2020
Hosted by ESCAP as a virtual/online event.

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2020 (APFSD 2020) will be convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 20 May 2020 as a virtual event. It opens at 9:00 am on 20 May 2020.

It will be the seventh regional preparatory meeting for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/290.

It has been preceded by a series of virtual consultations held from 30 March to 8 April and online discussions convened among major groups and other stakeholders and regional networks. The virtual consultations and call for written contributions have contributed to the development of a “Chair’s Statement” (available at https://www.unescap.org/apfsd/7/documents) as the main basis for the region’s inputs to the HLPF.

The APFSD 2020 will take an interactive approach which will engage member States, United Nations and other institutions, and major groups and other stakeholders, with a focus on “Accelerating action for and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.”

Accreditation and registration

Major groups and other stakeholders invited to register for the APFSD 2020 have already responded to the prior call for applications and have been selected with the support of a Selection Committee which has reviewed each application.¹ Separate processes have been put in place for local Government² and business major groups.³ An email requesting registration and inviting participation has been sent directly to those concerned.

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¹ These people were invited to attend the above-mentioned series of consultations for the APFSD held from 30 March to 7 April 2020.
² Managed by UCLG-ASPAC as major group coordinator for the region.
³ Resolution 67/290 adopted by the UN General Assembly in July 2013 on the “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development” invites the participation of the nine major groups of stakeholders into the formal structure of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. The nine major groups are: Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous People; Non-Governmental Organizations; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; and Farmers.
The secretariat reserves the right to revoke accreditation at any point.

**Basis for participation**

Participation of major groups and other stakeholders is based on the provisions of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational arrangements for the High-level political forum on sustainable development, which stipulate that the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed:

(a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;
(b) To have access to all official information and documents;
(c) To intervene in official meetings;
(d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
(e) To make recommendations;
(f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.  

**Coordination**

The Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) will facilitate coordination for major groups and other stakeholders, aside from the business and industry and local government major groups.

The following information must be communicated in advance to the secretariat:

- The name of two representatives (lead and alternate) of each major group and other stakeholders who will speak on behalf of the group as needed. These persons will be provided microphone access in the meeting. Other participants will need to coordinate with these speakers to intervene in the meeting.

The designation of any major group or other stakeholder representative or facilitator will not have any bearing on other processes or events.

**Briefing session**

A briefing session will be conducted for participants from the major groups and other stakeholders on **Thursday 18 May at 10:00am, (GMT+7)** to review participation. Details on joining the briefing will be shared directly to those registered.

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4 A/RES/67/290 Para. 15
Accessibility and languages

In addition to interpretation in Chinese, French and Russian, sign language interpretation will be available. Please be in touch with the secretariat beforehand if there are other special needs.

Key entry points for major groups and other stakeholders

Interventions are welcome from the floor in all substantive sessions. Specifically invited MGOS interventions will take place in the Opening Session and in the Session on voluntary national review reporting under agenda item 3 (see agenda at https://www.unescap.org/apfsd/7/documents and programme).

Interventions

- Please also review the complementary guide for delegates available at the APFSD website, and the technical information on joining sent by email carefully before joining the virtual meeting.

- APFSD 2020 will be an interactive event. Formal statements will be discouraged and can be submitted separately for posting to the website.

- After panelists/presenters/discussants have spoken, delegates will be invited to pose questions and share comments to the meeting. Those with microphone access will be able to request the floor (see technical guide). Representatives only will be able to address the meeting.

- The chat function will not be used for substantive communications.

- The time limit of 2 minutes for each intervention should be strictly observed unless otherwise advised by the Chair.

Questions and other responses should be concise and directly relevant to the discussion, as strict time control will be exercised by the Chair. APRCEM will facilitate coordination of interventions and will convene briefings and meetings to coordinate.

a) The report

The report will be circulated. Only changes of fact (where there is an error) will be made on request and at the discretion of the Chair.
Contact information

For further information on major group and other stakeholder participation in the APFSD please contact:

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