

We are a diverse group of 500 young activists, advocates and individuals<sup>1</sup> across social movements, youth led, youth serving, feminist, and allied organisations who have come together during the 2021 APFSD Youth Forum held virtually this year from 14 – 17 March 2021. Together, we represent youth belonging to the 13-30 age group and our representation is varied, consisting of young people with disabilities, youth from indigenous communities, ethnic and minority groups including Dalits, young people living with HIV and young people belonging to various sexual orientation, gender, identity, expression and characteristics among others. Our participation in the forum is a representation of our collective voice from the Asia and the Pacific region.

In order to get the Asia Pacific region back on track, the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery efforts must be carried out to stimulate equity, resilience, sustainability, and progress towards the SDGs by emphasising the need for research to advance gender equity, engagement with marginalised populations, ensuring decent work, preventing a digital divide, tackling intersectoral challenges around healthcare, and informing global governance reforms. An intersectional, human rights and gender responsive analysis is crucial for sustainable COVID19 resilience on a global scale - this is the only way in which recovery efforts can address the impact of the pandemic on all diverse and marginalised populations. The inclusion of young people in all our diversity the building of these recovery efforts is crucial for creating a more resilient and sustainable future.

We believe this regional call to action, and the national level call to action briefs, developed as part of the ANNUAL APFSD YOUTH FORUM CONVENING will enable our governments to strengthen their political commitment and allocate adequate resources, to enable us, the youth of the Asia and the Pacific, to make the most effective transformation of the world into a better place for all.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO INCLUSIVE, MEANINGFUL YOUTH CONSULTATIONS AHEAD OF GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW PROCESSES TO PUT YOUTH AT THE FOREFRONT OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION.