

# ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017

"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific"

29-31 March 2017 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE, BANGKOK, THAILAND

## SIDE EVENT

### *SRHR and Gender Equality: Crucial to Eradicating Poverty in Asia Pacific*

**Venue:** UNCC, Meeting Room

**Date:** 31 March 2017

**Time:** 11.30-12.30

**Organizers:** AP RCEM Thematic Working Group on Gender, Sexuality and SRHR; APA; ARROW; UNAIDS; UNFPA; UN Women; and RCM Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

#### **Background**

The overall theme of the fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific." The Forum will engage Member States, United Nations and other institutions, major groups and other stakeholders in a dialogue on regional priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. It will address scientific and technological innovation for sustainable development and focus attention on poverty eradication whilst fostering prosperity, through a discussion on achieving SDG 1 in the region.

Special sessions will also be held based on the High-level Political Forum 2017 cluster of SDGs, focusing on Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data, and on the implementation of SDGs 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture); 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); and 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), as well as Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), which is to be considered each year.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Scope**

This side event will focus on how the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5 in Asia and the Pacific will contribute to poverty eradication, particularly of those targets that are related to sexual

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299 "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level"

and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). It will also tackle crucial areas, such as sexual rights, that have been excluded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Poverty needs to be seen from a multi-dimensional perspective, which goes beyond the economic pillar, but also see other dimensions such as health, including SRHR, gender equality, and women's empowerment and participation. Two-thirds of the region's poor are women;<sup>2</sup> and poverty eradication needs solutions that do not look at issues in silos, and that enable fulfillment of women's rights. LGBTIQ people also represent the most marginalized populations in the region, and ensuring that their rights are protected and recognized that countries will be able to commit towards not leaving anyone behind.

This side event aims to explore the interconnections between sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and poverty eradication. It will also look at progress and gaps in achieving SRHR in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as take a critical look at indicators being proposed at the global level to see whether they really measure the change that we want to achieve. The meaningful engagement of civil society, including women, young people, people using drugs, sex workers, key populations affected and living with HIV, and LGBTIQ groups, in partnership with government and UN agencies is critical for discussions on how to best to address marginalization and inequality, and ensuring no one is left behind.

### Key Questions

The key questions to be discussed in this side event are:

- **Linkages** : How and why fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)<sup>3</sup> is necessary to eradicate poverty and achieve gender equality in Asia Pacific?
- **Indicators**: What is the state of SRHR in the region--progress and gaps? How do we measure SRHR, address limitations of data, and ensure that the rights aspects are captured in the indicators discussion?
- **Marginalization and Participation**: Reaching those left behind, addressing inequality, stigma and discrimination, and ensuring their engagement in implementing, monitoring, and providing feedback on the Agenda 2030.

### Tentative programme

#### Panelists/discussants

**Moderator:** Ingrid Fitzgerald, Gender Advisor, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific

#### Panelists

- Attorney Twyla Rubin, Center for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights of the Philippines' Commission on Human Rights (TBC): Highlighting the importance of Gender in Agenda 2030

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<sup>2</sup> <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/women-poverty-economics>

<sup>3</sup> Discussion will ensure that SRHR is not viewed from a limited frame of maternal health and family planning, but capture issues such as abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, and sexual rights (including SOGIE) that have been compromised in the 2030 Agenda.

focusing on the key “means of implementation” required for SDG 5 and 3, and key regional commitments that support this

- Sarah Zaman, Director, Programme, Bodily Rights, Shirkat Gah, Pakistan: SRHR and Poverty Eradication: The ‘unfinished business’
- UN Women (TBC): Focus on Global SDG Indicators and Monitoring: What is there and what still needs to be done for a rights-based approach?

#### **Discussants**

- Samreen Shahbaz, Programme Officer, ARROW; young feminist activist
- Viva Tatawaqa, Management Collective member of DIVA for Equality Fiji, SRHR Programme Focal Attendant
- Natt Kraipet, Member, Unzip the Lips (TBC)

#### **Proposed programme**

1. Opening & Introduction by Moderator, including about the Thematic Working Group (5 mins)
2. Panelist interventions (30 mins, with 9 mins for each per panelist)
3. Q&A and discussion (20 mins, with 3 discussants having 3 mins each + 10 mins Q&A)
4. Closing (5 mins)

#### **For more details and information contact:**

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