

# The Civil Society Organization Statement 2019

16th, October 2019 Vladivostok, Russian Federation

We, participants from civil society organizations (CSOs) in China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation, welcome the 3rd North-East Asian Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals ('NEA SDGs MSH Forum') organized by UN ESCAP on 15-16 October 2019 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, and appreciate UN ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (ESCAP-ENEA), Far Eastern Federal University, and Russian Federation for hosting this forum.

We recognize this forum as an important and unique space to closely coordinate, to learn from each other, and to create synergies among the multi-stakeholders including CSOs, governments and the private sector in North-East Asia for achieving the SDGs.

Noting the cruciality of the SDGs, we hereby declare to have stronger ties and democratic governance among multi-stakeholders at local, national, sub-regional levels for environmental sustainability, peace, justice, human rights, and equality. To develop a fruitful collaboration among multi-stakeholders, we need an effective mechanism to monitor and review the progress in achieving SDGs at the local, national and sub-regional level with open, sufficient, and reliable information.

In the light of these common values among the CSOs in North-East Asia, we urge all the stakeholders to be responsible for the SDGs' achievement to take these proposals into serious consideration for the future we want.

1. To strengthen practically and efficiently achieve the SDGs in North-East Asia region, a more vibrant inter-exchanges between local, national, sub-regional and regional level is indispensable. In this regard, we demand the outcomes of the North-East Asian Sub-regional Forum to be deliberately discussed in the process of the APFSD<sup>1</sup> and seriously reflected in the outcome of the forum.
2. To have productive and meaningful discussions, we urge that UN ESCAP and the governments to support to host Civil Society Forum including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders, a day before the sub-regional forum.
3. To improve CSOs contribution in the forum including best practices, we demand a time slot for a special session of CSOs from six countries in North-East Asia region as the official agenda of the sub-regional forum.
4. As AP-RCCEM<sup>2</sup> exists for the APFSD and as MGoS<sup>3</sup> exists for HLPF<sup>4</sup>, we claim to establish a valid multi-constituency engagement mechanism for NEA SDGs MSH Forum.

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<sup>1</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

<sup>2</sup> Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism

<sup>3</sup> Major Groups and other Stakeholders

<sup>4</sup> High Level Political Forum

5. To maximize the impact of the forum, we demand a responsible participation of government officials and each government to create a regular and functioning multi-stakeholder platform at the local and national levels as a follow-up of the forum.

We believe that this forum showcases a good example of collaborative multi-stakeholder implementation of SDGs, and therefore, stress that full committed participation of all North-East Asian countries is very important.

In this regard, we reaffirm the importance of the venue of the forum which allows all the stakeholders from any member state to participate. We look for the future in which all countries can host the forum and positively support each other for the effective implementation of the SDGs.

Endorsement:

**[China]**

Friends of Nature

**[Democratic People's Republic of Korea]**

**[Japan]**

**Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs (SDGs Japan)**

Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)

Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability (JYPS)

Japan Center for Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)

**[Mongolia]**

**Mongolian CSO Network on SDGs<sup>5</sup>**

Mongolian Environmental Civil Council NGO

**[Republic of Korea]**

**Korea SDGs Network<sup>6</sup>**

Korea Center for Sustainable Development

Korea Health Welfare Social Cooperative Federation

PEACEMOMO

ChildFund Korea

Korean Disability Forum

Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation(KCOC)

Korea LOHAS Association

**[Russian Federation]**

The Environmental Movement "ECA"

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<sup>5</sup> Network of NGOs, NGO Coalitions and NGO Networks working on social, environment, human rights and governance issues of SDGs.

<sup>6</sup> 31 NGOs and national coalitions from 11 issue groups of women, the disabled, education, housing and urban issues, healthcare, peace, governance, fairtrade, social economy, environment, and international development cooperation