



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

*The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development*

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*The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development*

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*First Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities in Asia Pacific*

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*The Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Environmental Rule of Law for Sustainable Development in Support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

**May 2015, Bangkok, Thailand**

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Three upcoming regional forums will address critical sustainable development challenges that lie at the core of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda:

- The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2015, convened by ESCAP, 21-22 May 2015)
- First Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities in Asia Pacific (convened by UNEP, 19-20 May 2015)
- The Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Environmental Rule of Law for Sustainable Development in Support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda (convened by UNEP and ESCAP, afternoon of 20 May 2015)

Stakeholder engagement is a fundamental requirement of sustainable development and in this regard, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are convening, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and other civil society organizations, the **Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development (Bangkok, 16-18 May 2015)** as a preparatory event to these key forums.

Following on the progress of the region in bringing the concept of development justice<sup>1</sup> to global attention and the establishment of Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)<sup>2</sup>, the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development will:

- Inform and build the capacity of civil society participants to engage in sustainable development processes at the global and regional levels
- Influence the decision-making processes at the targeted events - providing a space for civil society to dialogue on, and prepare strategies for engaging in the upcoming regional events
- Agree on joint actions and follow up to civil society positions adopted
- Strengthen the outreach and effectiveness of the AP-Regional CSO Engagement Mechanisms by facilitating dialogue and electing the first AP-RCEM committee
- Elect two alternate UNEP Asia Pacific CSO representatives

Other events that will be held back to back with the [Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development](#) may accept participation of selected CSO participants, including an event focused on the role of the private sector in sustainable development on 20 May 2015.

## TARGET PARTICIPANTS & ACCREDITATION

Priority will be given to organisations and their nominees meeting the following criteria:

- Accredited to, or having consultative status with the United Nations (consultative or similar status with the United Nations including ECOSOC list, CSD Roster, and UNEP or other UN-related organization)<sup>3</sup>
- Regional or subregional scope of mandate
- Demonstrated expertise and experience related to sustainable development

Funding which includes airfare, accommodation and modest daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be available for a limited number of organizations through ESCAP's collaborating partners.

## HOW TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE

Submit your applications online at <http://meetings.unescap.org> by latest 1 April 2015. It should be noted that participation in the [Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development](#) is a prerequisite for attending any of the other events. Application forms will be reviewed by ESCAP and UNEP in consultation with the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism, against the selection criteria above and to ensure balance in geographic

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1. For more information on Development Justice: [click here](#)

<sup>2</sup> See [RCEM Communiqué](#)

3. Organizations without formal accreditation with the UN can indicate in the application form the name of an organization with formal accreditation that would be willing to support its application (proof to be provided).

representation, mandate, gender, major groups and other stakeholders, and diversity in areas of expertise. Notification on the status of the applications will be sent **by 22 April 2015** and successful applicants will receive an acceptance letter. This acceptance letter will be necessary for participation in any of the other meetings mentioned above on confirmation of organizational credentials.

## **EVENT DETAILS**

### **The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (21-22 May 2015)**

As requested by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/290 on *Format and organisational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development*, ESCAP is convening APFSD 2015 as a preparatory event to the High-level Political Forum to be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations from 26 June to 8 July at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, with the theme "Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015." The HLPF is considered the custodian of the global sustainable development agenda.

As an inclusive regional intergovernmental forum preparatory to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, APFSD 2015 will engage member states, United Nations and other institutions, major groups and other stakeholders to strengthen the institutional framework by making recommendations on: (i) practical approaches for integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; (ii) potential for a regional monitoring and accountability framework; and (iii) the form and function of the APFSD beyond 2015. The outcomes of the meeting will be shared via a Chair's summary, informing the global debate at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

### **First Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (19-20 May 2015)**

The first Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia Pacific will take place from 19 to 20 May 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Ministerial Forum will provide a platform for Ministers to discuss issues of strategic importance for Asia and the Pacific, including the Post-2015 Development Agenda and environmental components of the Sustainable Development Goals, the region's environment outlook and emerging priorities, and tackling pressing health and environment challenges.

The Forum will also guide UNEP on regional implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1) and help identify the region's inputs to the next UNEA and UNEP's medium term strategy for 2018-2021. Environment Ministers, Environment Authorities, key intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organizations and UNEP's strategic partners, and major group stakeholders are expected to attend the event. (Note that civil society attendance at this meeting is **limited** and will be decided during the [Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development](#).)

## The Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Environmental Rule of Law for Sustainable Development in Support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Afternoon, 20 May 2015)

This Roundtable, to be convened in the afternoon of 20 May back-to-back with the First Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia Pacific on 19-20 May, will touch upon key elements of environmental rule of law in the region, update the current status and best practices of environmental rule of law, and discuss the challenges, opportunities and a way forward to ensure that environmental rule of law strengthens the region's accountability system for the implementation of Post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

#### *Regional process on sustainable development*

- The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development: <http://www.unescap.org/events/apcsfsd2>
- The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2015) - <http://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd2/>
- APFSD 2014 - <http://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd/>

#### *Global process regarding the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*

- Overview: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>
- Major groups: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1564>

#### *Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism*

- Communiqué of AP-RCEM: click [here](#)
- Engage with AP-RCEM, fill in this [form](#)
- AP-RCEM Statement on Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development 2014, click [here](#)

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APWLD - Ms. Wardarina ([rina@apwld.org](mailto:rina@apwld.org)) and Ms. Pichayapuk Leangsombut ([buai@apwld.org](mailto:buai@apwld.org)).