

Third Asia Pacific Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities

Major Groups and Stakeholders' Forum

“Reclaiming People’s Solutions: Addressing Systemic Challenges in Sustainable Consumption and Production in Asia-Pacific”

23 January 2019, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

Background

The Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of the Asia Pacific will take place from 24th to 25th of January 2019 in Singapore, with a one-day Major Group and Stakeholders' Forum on the 23rd January 2019. The meeting is jointly organized by Singapore's Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) Asia and the Pacific Office. The meeting also serves as a platform for Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders to contribute regional perspectives to the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) that will be held in March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. It will carry the theme: “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.”

The Major Group and Stakeholders' Forum is intended to provide a platform for major groups and stakeholders and social movements to organize their positions and strategic inputs and ensure that voices of marginalized sectors and grassroots are included in the Third Forum of Ministers. The outcome of the Major Group and Stakeholders' Forum will present a collective Major Group and Stakeholders' input to the Forum of Ministers and a regional Major Group and Stakeholders' input to 2019 UN Environment Assembly-4.

Since 2012, CSOs and social movements in Asia Pacific have been engaging the United Nations in sustainable development processes guided by a collective push for the realization of Development Justice. This vision for equitable, sustainable and just development aims to “reduce inequalities of wealth, resources, power and opportunities between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women” (The Bangkok Civil Society Declaration on Development Justice).

An integral component of Development Justice is Ecological Justice—the recognition of people as stewards of local and global commons who have the obligation to ensure that the utilization of natural resources prioritizes community needs and protects the rights of future generations. The

push for Ecological Justice has underpinned the engagement of Asia Pacific CSOs on the environment and will be the guiding framework for engagement in the upcoming Asia Pacific Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities.

The Asia Pacific civil society's development justice approach to Sustainable Consumption and Production involves both environmental sustainability and social justice as the core objective. Every stage of the production cycle or consumption cycle should be guided by ecosystem approaches—that minimize the carbon footprint to the extent possible. The idea is also establishing systems that also reduce production and consumption to the extent possible. It also puts at the center the needs of those that are poor and marginalized, and for them to have access and control over what is produced as much as how it is produced and consumed. Additionally, our idea of “innovative solutions” to environmental challenges broadly includes social innovations, local innovations, sacred and traditional knowledge, time-tested technologies and systems that matter most to people's lives and contribute to the achievement of SDGs and for the adoption of SCP as a mode of operation.

Participation of civil society and constituency organizations is an integral component of the Asia-Pacific Forum of Ministers of Environment from its inception, especially in highlighting critical voices from the grassroots. As in previous years, UN Environment works to enable civil society formations in the region to take the primary responsibility to organize the Major Group and Stakeholders' Forum in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific secretariat. The Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) is leading to organize the forum.

The Major Group and Stakeholders' Forum will aim to:

1. To enable major groups and stakeholders and grassroots representatives to prepare their collective views and positions on the issues at UNEA-4 and on the agenda of the 3rd Forum of Ministers and to ensure equitable opportunities to present those during the official sessions;
2. To ensure that the voice and views of major groups and stakeholders and grassroots movement in the region on the various issues in the UNEA-4 theme will be adequately and fairly presented and reflected in the Asia-Pacific regional inputs to UNEA-4;
3. To provide opportunities for major groups and stakeholders and grassroots representatives from across the region to understand and deliberate on the issues in

innovative solutions to environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production relevant to the specific situation and experiences in Asia-Pacific.

Programme

Time	Agenda <i>Objectives, Session Description</i>	Resource Person/s <i>Experts, Grassroot reps, Facilitator</i>
8:30-9:00	<p>Opening Plenary</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks</p> <p>Setting of Objectives</p> <p>UNEA-4 theme and roadmap</p> <p>Civil society participation at the Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities</p>	<p>UN Environment</p> <p>Host Government</p> <p>AP-RCEM</p>
9:00-9:20	<p>Opening: Video on Development Justice (7mins)</p> <p>Keynote Speech (on Development Justice and people's aspirations in the region)</p> <p>People's Remarks (on Grassroots alternatives)</p>	
9:20-10:35	<p>Session 1: People's Innovations to Environmental Challenges in Asia-Pacific</p> <p><i>The session would like to highlight people's way of life, solutions and innovations that respond to major systemic challenges to environmental sustainability. The session will also present critical voices on existing techno-fixes and raise the need to develop technology from below.</i></p> <p>Video presentation (max of 3 mins)</p> <p>Framing presentation (1 discussant)</p> <p>Panel discussion/talk show</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local and Indigenous Knowledge ● Agroecology ● Community-based energy production ● Community Partnership, People's Participation and Asserting People's Access and Control <p>Open Forum</p>	
10:35-10:45	Health Break	
10:45-12:00	<p>Session 2: Nurturing Nature through SCP from the Ground</p> <p><i>The session will highlight the systemic barriers hindering the achievement of SCP in the region, while at the same time presenting the kind of development as aspired and demanded by the grassroots, and the existing alternatives and resistances in the ground.</i></p> <p>Video presentation (max of 3 mins) Framing presentation (1 discussant)</p> <p>Panel discussion/talk show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Enterprise ● Nurturing Mother Earth ● Zero Waste ● People's Mining Policy industries <p>Open Forum</p>	
12:00-14:00	LUNCH UN Environment Side Events	



14:00-14:30	<p>Summary of Issues and Points from the thematic plenaries</p> <p>Process briefing: Objectives and methodologies for the workshops</p>	
14:30-16:00	<p>Parallel Workshops</p> <p><i>The workshops are opportunities for the participants to discuss thoroughly country and local issues on SCP and sharing of best practices and existing innovations</i></p> <p><i>*with guide questions</i></p>	<p>Facilitator/s per workshop:</p> <p>Agriculture Environmental Challenges Systemic Barriers Community Partnership</p>
16:00-16:15	Health Break	
16:15-17:00	Plenary Report Back: Key Points from the Workshops for the Civil Society Statement	
17:00-17:45	Deliberation and approval of the Collective CSO Statement to the Third Asia Pacific Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities	Facilitator: Drafting Team
17:45-18:00	Briefing on processes and opportunities for civil society interventions at the Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities, and closing remarks	
18:00-19:00	Interactive Session with UNEA Secretariat	
19:00 onwards	Drafting Committee Finalization of the CSO Statement	