

# Take Robust Actions to Manage COVID-19 Crisis in South Asia

## Joint Statement of South Asia CSOs

1 May 2020

**Unprecedented Health Crisis:** On 11 March 2020, WHO declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic. The entire world is now facing public health risks, and yet, it is hard to mitigate or solve this human threat. In South Asia, home of about 25 percent of the world population, where 1.9 billion people are living now in lockdown. In our region 62,296 infected cases have been confirmed, and 1,755 (2.82 % of total cases) have lost their lives (*1 May 2020, World Life Expectancy*). Number of South Asian people who are living in Gulf countries, Europe and North American countries have already died. On the other hand, many Non-COVID patients and millions of children have been deprived from basic health and vaccination services. Many health workers, especially who are fighting against COVID 19 in frontline, do not feel secured. Afghan people who are living in threat of insecurity, now they are forced to live in additional challenges. Despite dramatic drop, hundreds of civilians including children have been killed even in health emergency.

COVID-19 is gradually spreading in the region and the number of deaths is on an increasing trend. Our public health system is not strong enough to cope with COVID 19 in terms of physical infrastructure, medical supplies and skilled human resources. All the countries in our region have been facing shortage of medical equipment, supplies and trained health workers. On the other hand, it is also proved that privatization of health care service is harmful to us because most of the private hospitals and clinics have been closed or they are not providing service to the people in this crisis situation.

There is growing evidence that deforestation, biodiversity loss, and illegal trade of wildlife lead to the emergence of new diseases. Biodiversity loss is becoming a big driver in the emergence of some of these viruses. Large-scale deforestation, habitat degradation and fragmentation, agriculture intensification, our food system, trade in species and plants, anthropogenic climate change- all these are drivers of biodiversity loss and also drivers of new diseases. In the lockdown period air pollution has been reduced and we see our nature is healing, but what cost. Drop of emissions of 6 percent, that's unfortunately (only) short-term good news.

The harsh reality of inequality in South Asia is that poor people are more likely to become infected with the coronavirus, as social distancing is difficult to implement for them, particularly to slum dwellers and poor housing families. They also have less access to health care and they are more likely to have lost their jobs, and are more vulnerable to spikes in food prices. Absence of nutritious food might increase the possibility of increasing the number of infected people.

Poor; women, especially pregnant and lactating women, single women; migrant workers; Garments workers; daily wage workers; sex workers; refugees; People with Disability; Older People; People living with malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and chronic disease; conflict affected people, refugees, asylum seekers, people displaced by natural disaster and conflicts, Dalits, sanitation workers, deprived indigenous people, LGBTIQ, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable people are highly vulnerable to this pandemic. Children are prone to emotional, social and physical vulnerabilities.

### Call for Actions to respond COVID 19 Crisis

- Follow Human Rights Principles for COVID-19 response and recovery
- Make SAARC COVID19 Emergency Fund effective
- Establish inclusive mechanisms at national, province and local level
- Demonstrate dynamic political leadership
- Prevent further spread of infection to citizens
- Ensure transparency when responding COVID 19
- Protect the older people and highly vulnerable communities from virus
- Protect and incentivize frontline health workers
- Cover all COVID-19 medical expenses
- Ensure flow of vital medical supplies
- Protect migrant workers & their families
- Ensure health care service to Non-COVID-19 patients
- Ensure effective delivery of relief packages
- Protect women and girls from sexual abuse and violence
- Ensure access to information and internet service
- Strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation
- Expedite role of CSOs
- End lockdown based on situation
- Protect right to education
- Ban illegal trade and consumption of wild animals
- Bring recovery plan and stimulus package led to a sustainable future

Many poor people cannot afford to self-isolate, particularly those working in the informal sector. In Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the majority of the workforce works informally, with no severance pay or sick leave if jobs are lost. Workers face a choice between going to work while sick, and going hungry.

**Emergence of Economic Crisis:** COVID-19 pandemic has badly affected our economy and livelihoods. According to the World Bank, South Asia might well experience its worst economic performance in 40 years, with at least half of the countries falling in a deep recession. Regional economic growth will fall to a range between 1.8 and 2.8 percent in 2020, down from 6.3 percent projected six months ago. Tourism has dried up, supply chains have been disrupted, demand for garments has collapsed, consumer and investor sentiments have deteriorated, international capital is being withdrawn and inflows of remittances are being disrupted. On top of the deterioration of the international environment, the lockdown in most countries has frozen large parts of the domestic economy. Farmers are not able to sell their products in the market.

Small and micro enterprises including retailers and street vendors, tourism, agriculture, international trade and foreign employment are highly affected by this crisis. Informal sector workers, particularly daily wage workers are extremely affected. The sudden disappearance of service sector jobs and the rise in food prices have created economic hardship, especially for people in the informal sector.

Poor people have a higher likelihood of having lost their jobs, and domestic migrant workers who had escaped rural poverty by finding work in cities are being forced back into rural poverty again. Many of the poorest face higher risk of food insecurity. The pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic.

All governments in South Asia have responded rapidly to the crisis, but their task is daunting. Vulnerable population who earn on a daily basis to live a hand-to-mouth existence, they opted to walk for kilometers on end to reach their hometowns just so they will have a roof above their heads and some grain to help appease their burning stomach. Food security has become a serious threat in our region because production and supply chain systems have been completely disrupted. Unfortunately, many migrant workers have been stranded in international borders and they have not been allowed to go to their homes.

Already vulnerable groups are now losing their jobs without money to survive beyond the next few days. In India, the biggest lockdown in history of 1.3 billion people, has left many millions of migrant workers unemployed and stranded in megacities, forced to take risky, long journeys back to their remote villages. For such vulnerable groups, poverty and hunger risk killing them before COVID-19 does.

South Asian citizens are being infected in foreign countries, particularly where they are doing their jobs. Some Gulf countries are pressurizing the origin countries to back their nationals, those are supposed to be irregular status and in prison. On the other hand, many of them have been losing their jobs, which will directly impact our economy. Millions of migrant workers are willing to come back to their home countries. So, South Asian countries are going to lose huge amounts of remittance.

**Negative Impact on Social Sector:** The pandemic has no boundaries and race to discriminate. However, it has its impacts disproportionately among few vulnerable sections due to their exposition and vulnerabilities. Because of lockdown children and students are deprived of the right to education. Social and cultural activities have been disrupted. Data of last month lockdown shows that rape and domestic violence are still prevalent across the country. Women and girls are unsafe in their own communities and family. Child marriage and child abused are increased in some parts. Household burden has been increased to women during lockdown. Huge number of women workers are forced to take unpaid leave. The increase in domestic violence in South Asia is also partly because of the stereotype gender roles in the society. It is deeply appalling to know a lot of the many atrocities happening to people across South Asia. We express our solidarity to those people who are the victims of rape and domestic violence, people who lost jobs.

**Pressing Governance Issues:** We respect every effort of the governments, but the response activities are amid slow and not effective enough. Spreading fake news and information; stigmatization to the health workers, infected persons and migrant/moving workers, shaming and blaming are exacerbated. Religious phobia is rising in some countries. Some right activists and media persons are threatened or attacked in the region.

We are concerned that some people are illegally detained during the lock-down. They are also experiencing some harassment by the security forces in some countries. Due to lockdown, public service delivery has been

disrupted in one hand, on the other hand it has been fragmented in most of the countries. It is unfortunate that we are observing unhealthy politics, violating democratic values, and a number of corruption cases.

**Achieving SDGs becomes difficult:** The COVID-19 global health pandemic is rapidly changing the ways we live and work. In the age of sustainable development and at a time when the world is working towards achieving the SDGs, this disease is complicating SDG implementation efforts as well as posing a real risk to achieving targets on communicable disease, education, life expectancy, and decent work.

*In order to address the issues and challenges regarding the COVID 19 crisis, we CSOs of South Asia jointly release this statement to draw the attention of Governments of South Asia, international communities and to affirm COVID19 response and recovery actions inclusive, participatory, accountable and right based.*

**Follow Human Rights Principles for COVID-19 response and recovery:** The COVID 19 pandemic is not only a critical public health crisis, it is also a human, economic and social emergency that is “fast becoming a human rights crisis”. Minimum response to COVID-19 must be guided by Sphere and Humanitarian Standard Partnership (HSP), so the affected populations survive and recover with dignity. So, we urge all governments to respond to this crisis in human rights framework and Sphere guideline, and response actions should be built on human solidarity. Human rights and Sphere based responses can not only help beat the pandemic by putting a focus on the imperative of healthcare for everyone, but also serve as an essential warning system – highlighting who is suffering most, why, and what can be done about it. "Leave No One Behind" principle is urgently important when responding to COVID 19 and recovery actions. We opine "*Unprecedented challenge needs unprecedented response*". To safeguard the lives of countless civilians in Afghanistan - and to give the nation hope of a better future - it is imperative that violence is stopped with the establishment of a ceasefire and for peace negotiations to commence.

**Make SAARC COVID19 Emergency Fund effective:** We welcome establishment of SAARC COVID 19 Emergency Fund. But, we urge governments to develop a transparent and effective operational modality of that fund. The SAARC Secretariat should administer that fund. We call all the governments to transfer the funds as soon as possible, as they committed in a Video Conference held on 15 March 2020. The money collected in the fund should be utilized as soon as possible in COVID 19 response actions. We expect a more active role of the SAARC secretariat and revive the SAARC Food Bank in this pandemic situation.

**Establish inclusive mechanisms at national, province and local level:** We call on the Government to ensure women’s equal representation in all covid-19 response planning and decision-making. Of course, we need to have a basic collective strategy - to have some basic steps for Government, political society, business society and CSOs. We urge multi-stakeholder collaboration since we will not be able to overcome this battle in silos. It is suggested to build better coordination among local authorities, province/state governments and federal governments. Countries need to practice decentralized actions for better results. We require transparent, responsive and accountable government led mechanisms during the pandemic. CSOs, experts and the private sector also have “essential roles to play” and that civic space and press freedom are “critical”. Also, it is requested to take every decision based on science, evidence and ethical principles, such as fairness and proportionality. We are deeply concerned with mobilization of the security force in COVID 19 response and procurement of medical supplies. We call on governments to advance the public health system led by civil governments.

**Demonstrate dynamic political leadership:** The COVID 19 is a significant threat to public health; swift and effective government action is necessary. A gesture of leadership would improve the morale of frontline medical workers and citizens. The presence of top leadership in the most affected areas of the pandemic could facilitate strong support and response to alleviate further infection and improve communication between all levels of governments. Also, we urge our governments and political parties not to make the Covid-19 a political issue and a political agenda.

**Prevent further spread of infection to citizens:** Public health is central to human well-being and primarily a responsibility of the government. We call on governments to establish dedicated hospitals of COVID 19 as soon as possible, particularly in most affected areas and prone areas. Although lockdowns and physical distancing have helped suppress transmission in many countries, the virus remains “extremely dangerous”. We call on the government to take action on six public health measures WHO has been advocating since the pandemic started, which center around detection, isolation, testing, treatment and quarantine. We urge the government to increase

the number of tests, particularly PCR tests, by establishing testing sites that help to reduce testing time and protect medical staff. We call for an arrangement of sufficient number of quarantine and isolation beds and maintain international standards. Focused on treating those with severe symptoms, which can lower the mortality rate of COVID-19 in the region. Governments need to use the opportunity this lockdown affords to move for mass testing, and well as thoroughly tracing all contacts any and all infected persons have had in the past few months. We must make every effort to ensure that the possible spread of the virus and the coming monsoon season do not exacerbate the already highly vulnerable situation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Each country in the region should be effective in tracing people who may have come into contact with those who tested positive for COVID-19. Since most of the citizens have smartphones, so when someone tests positive, the government should trace the travel history. With this data, the governments should trace the potentially infected population. Those in close contact with the infected should be asked to get tested, while indirect contacts should be ordered to self-quarantine for at least fourteen days.

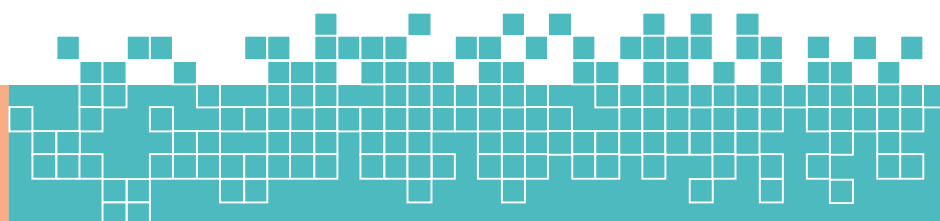
**Ensure transparency when responding COVID 19:** Governments should exercise as much transparency in information relating to COVID-19 as possible. Governments should publish the movement information of citizens who tested positive, with local governments should publish the number of new infections, the exact locations they visited, when they visited, using what mode of transportation. Attempts to block, hide or distort information and data will fuel distrust of the government and this, in turn, will facilitate a rise in misinformation and fake news. We urge the governments to establish a consolidated communication channel to keep people updated with reliable and authentic information.

**Protect the older people and highly vulnerable communities from virus:** One of the central principles of the 2030 Agenda is "*No One is Left Behind*". Responses to the coronavirus should under no circumstance discriminate between people. A rights-based approach to health requires that health policy and programmes in general, and those directly linked to the coronavirus outbreak, must prioritize the needs of those furthest behind first. We call on Governments to take special action to protect older people, who are in high risks to be severely infected. Further, migrant workers, refugees, people in prisons, refugees, internally displaced people, slum dwellers, poor class people, cleaner staffs of hospitals, ambulance drivers, people living with HIV and Aids are highly vulnerable. We call on take special strategy to protect them from COVID 19. Quarantines and isolation wards should be women and disable friendly. Governments should take care of pregnant and lactating women and we need to guarantee menstruation hygiene. We must not forget LGBTIQ community who are ignored in many cases including COVID 19 response/prevention programmes in our countries. Stigma and discrimination are never acceptable anywhere at any time, and must be fought in all countries.

**Protect and incentivize frontline health workers:** Providing protective equipment to medical staff is the first step in the fight against the COVID 19. If we cannot protect them, we run the risk of losing our ability to control the virus. Also, equip the hospitals to prevent infection health workers, so that they can safely test and treat patients with COVID-19. Governments should fully supply all the necessary supplies including equipment, medicines, masks, personal protective equipment and gear to the hospitals at all costs.

Women disproportionately carry the burden of unpaid care work, and are overrepresented as frontline health workers, making the integration of a gender perspective into social and economic responses all the more essential. Women are playing an outstanding role in the COVID-19 response. They constitute 70 percent of the health care workforce and recognizing that they are frontline workers responding to this health emergency, they must be adequately, appropriately and properly protected and supported to cope with the multiple impacts. We therefore call on all governments to make sure health and social care workers are properly trained, equipped, offered safe and decent working conditions; and properly resourced, including by closing the 28 percent gender pay gap in the health sector by instituting immediate equal pay for equal work.

**Cover all COVID-19 medical expenses:** Government should cover all medical costs associated with dealing with COVID-19 for its citizens and foreigners living in the country. This can create a sense of financial certainty and an environment where no one has a reason to hide if they become infected. People infected with COVID-19 should be given paid leave and the unemployed should be provided basic living expenses. We call on governments to create COVID 19 Emergency Fund, and transfer public budgets into the fund.





**Ensure flow of vital medical supplies:** We call on all the governments to ensure the normal cross-border flow of vital medical supplies and other goods and services, and to resolve unnecessary disruptions to global supply chains. Governments should make sure to supply necessary medicines in all parts of their countries.

**Protect migrant workers & their families:** We call on the governments to make proper arrangements of food, shelter and treatment for migrants and trafficked persons, wherever they are if they cannot be brought into the country now. All workers should have access to sufficient accommodation facilities, including facilities to isolate themselves, as well as water and sanitation, so they can effectively protect themselves, in the countries where they are working. They should also have access to social security protections and financial support when they are unable to work because of the COVID-19 pandemic, including if they are sick or quarantined in these countries. Migrant families are remittance dependent, when their remittances flow will be reduced or stopped, government support will be needed. Migrant workers are losing their job, salary and other benefits. So, bring them under government facilities.

Under international law in any crisis situation it is incumbent upon the state concerned to take care of all people in its land including migrants, irrespective of their status. Moreover, bringing back migrants in the midst of a pandemic will heighten the risk of the spread of the virus that the concerned country can ill afford. SAARC may use the Colombo process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue and others platforms to protect and proper repatriation of the citizens of South Asian countries. We urge our embassies and consulate offices to address the in-service migrants needs such as housing, food, health and hygiene needs.

The Government of Nepal should urgently consider all steps possible to allow Nepali workers waiting at the India-Nepal border to safely return to Nepal. They must also ensure that once they are in Nepal, they have the means to adequately protect themselves from COVID-19 and have equal access to health care, in particular if they have, or are showing symptoms of, COVID-19.

**Ensure health care service to Non-COVID-19 patients:** We call on governments to protect the right to health care service for all the Non-COVID patients, particularly those who are suffering from chronic disease such as cardio disease, diabetes, cancer, respiratory disease etc. It is observed that young people including women and girls are not getting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights services in this situation of COVID19. Local health service centers should continue their services like; family planning, contraceptives, safe abortions etc.

We call on Governments to make sure to operate all the public hospitals, private hospitals and clinics in full fledge. We are deeply concerned that private hospitals are not taking fever patients, forcing people to seek treatment at state-run health facilities. Governments should take strong actions, if they do not run their services.

**Ensure effective delivery of relief packages:** Governments have announced relief packages to benefit the people, but Governments and its agencies should make sure they are reached to the neediest people and families. We urge relief materials be distributed to the poor and needy people and families, homes of persons with disabilities. There is a calculation that a country needs to spend minimum 5-7 percent of GDP needs to be spent on addressing COVID 19. So we can have one common point on the relief package as our situations are similar. Integrating open government practices can ensure that resources are used for intended purposes, building citizens' trust. To ensure that the provisions to be distributed as relief packages are of the required quality, the government must declare certain standards for staple foods like rice and lentils. Once those standards are set, then it must strictly provide an oversight so that those entrusted to distribute them do not misuse their mandate. In alternate, we urge Governments to provide cash support to the poor and needy families. Moreover, we must keep critical food supply chains operating, so people have access to life sustaining food, and to keep people in crisis fed and alive. We call on all Governments and political parties to avoid any form of politicization and discriminations, when distributing relief materials.

**Protect women and girls from sexual abuse and violence:** We need a responsive local administrations and governments and an easy reporting mechanism to fight sexual abuse and domestic violence. Also, we emphasize protection of LGBTIQ community, particularly transgender women. We call on governments to urgently increase prioritization of and funding to prevent and respond to gender based violence. A twin track approach must be taken of: i) funding organizations on Gender Based Violence to deliver prevention initiatives, shelters, hotlines, psycho-social and legal support; and ii) taking a multi-sectoral approach by integrating ending Gender

Based Violence into the responses to COVID-19. The government should also focus on psycho-social counseling for women, girls, children etc., and rehabilitation of the victims of abuse and violence.

**Ensure access to information and internet service:** Information about how to prevent and contain the coronavirus must be accessible to everyone. Information technologies and freedom of access to internet service is directly supporting to curb COVID 19 pandemic. We encourage the government of Bangladesh to allow 4G mobile internet urgently in Rohingya refugee camps so that this vulnerable refugee can communicate with health facilities and they can also prepare themselves. Medical professionals and relevant experts, must be able to speak freely and share information with each other and the public. Journalists and the media should be able to report on the pandemic, including coverage that is critical of government responses, without fear or censorship.

**Strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation:** We call on the US Government to withdraw its decision to block funding to WHO, and withdraw all types of sanctions taken against some countries, such as Iran, in this crisis situation. As countries receive enhanced aid for recovery, transparency and civic oversight can build trust of citizens and donors alike. We urge the Governments to strengthen regional cooperation, cooperation with CSOs & Private Sector and to build solidarity and interdependence since we have been sharing our geography to maintain supply of our basic needs including food, medicines etc. We call for immediate debt cancellation, financial burden relief mechanisms and large scale aid investments to fund ongoing universal public health and social care service delivery everywhere across the region to ensure that healthcare is universal and free for all.

**Expedite role of CSOs:** We as CSOs have to come together to supplement all stakeholders' activities and support to come out of this situation. We urge the CSOs to keep united, work together and intensify engagement with poor women, children, farmers, informal sector workers, marginalized and vulnerable people taking support of community leaders, community health workers, youth and women groups etc. because they will be the key to support the community and pass positive messages. CSOs are suggested to involve in the supply of food materials, preventive supplies such as soap, sanitizers, face masks etc. after sectorial mapping of their need assessment. We encourage the CSOs to involve in monitoring COVID 19 response activities of the Governments and keep advocacy works more effective.

**End lockdown based on situation:** Countries need to come up with their own strategy, including ending the lockdown based on the situation. From any point of view—social, psychological, economic, political, and even health—the lockdown cannot continue for too long. It is suggested that the whole of the country should not be opened immediately. With about a week left for the present lockdown period to end, planning for the next phase needs to begin immediately. Which parts need to remain in lockdown needs to be decided first. Decisions have to be flexible depending on the trajectory of the spread of the virus, but the more scenarios are thought through, the less the risk.

**Protect right to education:** Less visible, but no less worrying, is the price that children and youth will pay in terms of education. School closures, confinement, and psychological distress will have serious consequences on their futures and well-being, as well as on those of their teachers and families. Securing quality education for all and making sure that the most vulnerable are not left behind is the responsibility of every government, and this is a major challenge in a crisis situation. Regardless of a country's capacity to provide appropriate, continued access to learning during crises and school closures, all education systems should prepare for schools to reopen when the time comes.

**Ban illegal trade and consumption of wild animals:** We urge UN and member states to ban illegal trade and consumption of wild animals. Countries must bring strong laws to control such illegal practices. Aside from law, mass education on wildlife protection is also required to cease the consumption and trade, whether for meat eating, medicinal treatment or fur. Comprehensive education to stigmatize wildlife consumption is one of the few ways to influence people who live with deep-rooted cultural beliefs.

**Bring recovery plan and stimulus package led to a sustainable future:** We call on Governments to bring both immediate and long-term plans to respond to the impacts of COVID19 crisis. But, the stimulus package should be globally and regionally coordinated. Stimulus package must include increased concessional finance, actions to prevent a debt crisis, immediate actions to stabilize financial markets, partnering with the private sector, and making good use of digital technologies for sustainable development. Special stimulus packages

should be focused on poor, farmers, informal sector workers, marginalized and vulnerable groups. The issues of small business, vendors, hotels, restaurant owners should also be addressed. We should make a special plan to manage migrant workers and to create alternative employment for them, who are returning home countries after opening international travel. We should give special attention to address the issues of migrant workers, who are always in vulnerable situations.

It is an urgent need to provide *safety net support* to poor, marginalized and vulnerable people. It includes all at risk persons with disabilities within COVID-19 relief programmes. We also need to build on awareness messages disability inclusive, provide psycho-social support. We also call on the UN and Governments to urgently identify measures to support South Asia by establishing a global recovery fund and delivering full implementation of universal social protection benefits and safety nets in all countries, including establishing and supporting social protection floors. Further, we need to improve humanitarian and development coordination to maximize impact and address root causes of protracted crises like food insecurity. We call on Governments to develop *COVID-19 Recovery Plan activities* considering needs of category of populations.

We call on all the Governments to reduce their security budget and syphon them in medium term and long-term recovery plans. South Asia must understand the importance of reducing military expenditure and increase the budget for health, education and social security. We need to give emphasis on food production and its fair distribution to check food crises. We must aim to build back better so that our new systems are safer, fairer and more sustainable than those that allowed this crisis to happen, and more effective in cushioning the consequences of future crises on people in our region.

We need an early warning system for future crises. Digital access must be seen as a utility, like electricity and plumbing. Creative partnerships and the digital economy can create a better world for all. Importantly, Governments and international actors should start, as soon as possible, gathering adequate data on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Data should be disaggregated at least by gender, age, disability, income, race and ethnicity. Such disaggregated data is needed to accurately assess the situation, to make inequalities visible, and to identify those who have been left behind.

As a species, we have the capability of doing this, and the current global crisis is the wake-up call we need in order to make a better world for all. South Asian countries need to work through potential solutions to the current health crisis, the post-pandemic recovery plan should be seen as an opportunity to “build forward better”, with a focus on “green jobs” in a more sustainable economy. Strategies to ensure optimum economic opportunities with promotion of the agricultural activities, commercial farming, animal rearing, cottage-based, medium and large scale industries from local to the national level should be placed with maximum mobilization of the young people. With the right mix of economic policies and fiscal stimulus, investments in healthcare and social protections, we can move to recovery pathways that do not take us back to the same levels of waste and pollution, inequality and joblessness, but ensure greater economic, environmental and social sustainability. Any policy responses by countries must suit their local contexts. Further, we need to strengthen institutions and build human capacity for disaster and risk management. We must secure a New Deal for Nature and People that incentivizes public and private investment in nature, and facilitates delivery of the SDGs - prosperity for all on a healthy planet.

### Endorsed By

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Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation (Khan Foundation)  
Abdul Sattar Chachar  
Action Works Nepal  
ActionAid Nepal  
Active Help Organization  
Adahas  
Adivasi Navjeevan Gathan Navjyoti Agua  
Adivasi Women's Network  
Advocacy, Research, Training and Services Foundation  
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Afghanistan National Education Coalition

Afghanistan Translation and Research Center  
Ageing Nepal  
Ain o Salish Kendra  
All India Forum of Peoples Movement  
All India Women's Conference  
Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal  
Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union  
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AP Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union  
Arpan poverty Alleviation  
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asia Dalit Rights Forum  
 Asia Indigenous International Network  
 Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities  
 Asia Pacific Women's Watch  
 Asia Safe Abortion Partnership  
 Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal  
 Association for Promotion Sustainable Development.  
 Hisar. India  
 Association for Social Development  
 Association of Collaborative Forest Users Nepal  
 Association of Community Radio Broadcasters'  
 (ACORAB) Nepal  
 Association of District Coordination Committees Nepal  
 (ADCCN)  
 Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON)  
 AWARE GIRLS  
 AWAZ Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development  
 Services  
 Badhan Hijra Sangha  
 Badin Development & Research Organization  
 Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS)  
 Bangladesh Adivasi Forum  
 Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation  
 Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development  
 (BCHRD)  
 Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network  
 Bangladesh Krishok Federation  
 Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and  
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 Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition  
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 Bikaner Medical Relief Society  
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 Borok Peoples' Human Rights Organization  
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 Campaign for Human Rights and Social Transformation  
 (CAHURAST)  
 Campaign for Popular Education  
 CARE International in Nepal  
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 Center for Conservation, Education and Research  
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 Center for Participatory Research and Development  
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 Central Department of Environmental Science, TU  
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 Centre for Community Economics and Development  
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 Citizen News Service - CNS  
 Clan Bhutan  
 Clean Energy Nepal  
 Coalition for Education Development  
 Coastal Development Partnership  
 Commonwealth Youth Council  
 Community Based Inclusive Development Network  
 Pakistan  
 Community Building for Sustainable Development  
 Community Development Services  
 Community Health & Educational Organization  
 Community Healthy Advocacy Network at Nation  
 (CHANAN)  
 Community Initiatives for Development in Pakistan  
 Concern for Environmental Development and Research  
 Conservation Organization for Afghan Mountain Areas  
 Cooperation for Peace and Development  
 Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and  
 Innovation  
 Dak Diye Jai  
 Dalit NGO Federation of Nepal  
 Dalit NGOs Federation  
 Dalit Welfare Organization  
 Dalit Youth Alliance  
 Deepti Bhuban  
 Development Exchange Center Nepal  
 Development Project Service Centre (DEPROSC-  
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 Dhaka Ahsania Mission  
 Dhimal Jatiya Bikas Kendra Nepal  
 Dhimal Women Forum  
 Digo Bikas Institute  
 Digo Bikas Institute  
 DiMaNN  
 Disability Rights Alliance India  
 Durjoy Nari Shangha  
 Earth Day Network  
 Earth Environment Protect Organization  
 Earthlanka  
 EMPOWER INDIA  
 EMPOWER PEOPLE  
 Enable Lanka Foundation  
 ENRUDEC  
 EquityBD/COAST  
 Family Planning Association of India  
 Federation for good governance Nepal  
 Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal  
 (FECOFUN)  
 Federation of Private Forest Stakeholders, Nepal



Feminist Dalit organization (FEDO)  
Films 4 Peace Foundation  
Forest Environment Workers Union  
Forest Environment Workers Union Nepal  
Forum for Community Upliftment System Nepal (FOCUS-NEPAL)  
Forum for Women's Rights and Development  
Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB)  
FREEDOM FORUM  
FRESHWATER ACTION NETWORK SOUTH ASIA  
Friends for Peacebuilding and Development  
Gender Advocacy Working Group  
Gender and Water Alliance  
Global Call to Action Against Poverty  
Global Call to Action against Poverty-Sri Lanka  
Centre for Environment Education  
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Gram Bharati Samiti  
Green Organization - GO  
Green Watch Dhaka  
Hami DajuVai  
HAMI YUWA  
Heart to Heart Lanka  
Hindara Educational and Social Development Organization  
HomeNet Pakistan  
Hope and Transformation against Poverty  
Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP)  
Human Rights Focus Pakistan  
Human Touch  
Human Wing International  
Huvadhoo Aid  
ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia  
India HIV/AIDS Alliance  
Indian Dreams Foundation  
Indigenous Peoples Forum Odisha  
Indigenous Women and Children Foundation  
INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT  
Integrated Regional Support Programme  
International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development (INHURED International)  
international Planned Parenthood Federation  
IRDC  
IT for Change  
Jagaran Media center  
jagaran Media Center  
Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN)  
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement Nepal  
Joint Efforts for Relief, Guidance and Awareness  
Justice and Rights Institute Nepal (JuRI-Nepal)  
Kalyan Regional Community Science Centre  
Kamana Foundation Nepal  
Kapaceng Foundation

Karbi Human Rights Watch  
Karnali Integrated Development Centre  
Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre  
Kawish Resource Center  
Khpal Kore Organization  
Kiran Nepal  
KOTHOWAIN (vulnerable peoples development organization)  
Krisoker Sor (Farmers' Voice)  
KRITIKA women's campaign for social cultural transformation  
Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur Landesa, India  
Larr Humanitarian & Development Programme  
Light for the World NL  
Light House  
Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society  
Local Road Bridge Programme (LRBP)  
Lokenatya O Sanskritik Unnayan Kendro  
Lumanti Support Group for Shelter  
Mahila Atma Nirvarta Kendra(MANK)  
Mahila Dakshata Samiti  
Mahila Shakti Bikash Kendra Nepal  
Maldivian Network for Empowering Women Manuskri  
Micro Enterprise Development Programme  
Motivation Sri Lanka (MSL)  
Mugal Indigenouw Women Upliftment Institute  
Muktangan Mitra  
Naga Women Union  
Naga Women's Union  
Narigrantha Prabartana  
National Action and Coordinating Group  
National Association of Community Electricity Users' Nepal, NACEUN  
National Association of Intellectual Disabled and Parents  
National Campaign For Education Nepal  
National Campaign for Sustainable Development  
National Coalition for Education, India  
National Disability & Development Forum  
National Election Observation Committee (NEOC)  
National Farmers' Group Federation  
National Federation of the Disabled Nepal  
National Federation of women living with HIV &AIDS  
National Federation of Women Living with HIV and AIDS  
National Federation of Youth NGO Nepal  
National Fisheries Solidarity Movement  
National Forum for Advocacy Nepal  
National Forum for Advocacy Nepal  
National Forum for Advocacy, Nepal  
National Forum of Women with Disabilities  
National Human Rights Commission  
National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON)

National Indigenous Disabled Women Association  
Nepal  
National Indigenous Women Forum Nepal  
National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF)  
National Integrated Development Association  
National Trade Union Coordination Committee  
National Union of Workers.  
National Youth Federation Nepal  
Nava Kiran Plus  
Navrachna Samaj Sevi Sanstha  
Naz Male Health Alliance  
Nepal Disabled Women Association  
Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)  
Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities  
Association of Nepal Kirat Kulung Language and  
Cultural Development  
Nepal Majhi Women Upliftment Association  
Nepal Transportation and Development Research  
Centre  
Nepalese Youth for Climate Action  
Network for Development of Indigenous Peoples -NDIP  
NGO Federation of Nepal  
NGO-Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities  
Nirmanee Development Foundation  
NISARGA  
North-East Affected Area Development Society  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
One to watch  
OPTION NEPAL  
Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum  
Pakistan Institute of Labor Education and Research  
Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek  
Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization  
Participatory Research Action Network- PRAN  
Paryavaran Mitra  
PEACE HOPE, PAKISTAN  
Peoples Action for Social Service  
Peoples Development Community  
Photographer/Videographer  
Photographer/Videographer  
Poor and Dalit Upliftment Service Committee-PUSEC  
Dolpa  
Poor Rural Development Society  
Prayatna Samiti  
Professional Development and Research Center  
Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural  
Rights  
Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights & Values in  
India  
Rapid Response  
REFAD Nepal  
Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RECPHEC)  
Restructuring Nepal  
Roots for Equity  
RUDAS Nepal  
Rural Development Organization  
Rural Initiatives in Sustainability & Empowerment

RURAL VOLUNTEERS CENTRE  
Russ Foundation  
Rutgers WPF  
SABARAMATI SAMITI  
Safai Karmachari Andolan  
SAHANIVASA  
Sahara Nepal  
SAMATA Foundation  
Sambriddi Nepal  
Sanayee Development Organization  
Sankalpa Nepal  
Sathi All for Partnerships  
Savisthri District Women's Collective  
SAVISTHRI Women's Movement  
Saviya Development Foundation  
SDGs Studio  
Self Help Environment Awareness  
Camp(SHEAC)/Institute of Forestry, Pokhara  
Sevalanka Foundation  
Shakti Milan Samaj  
Shakti Samuha  
Shelter Participatory Organization  
Shirkat Gah women's Resource Centre  
shirkat Gah- Women's Resource Centre  
Shobujer Ovijan Foundation  
SICOMBEO  
Sightsavers International  
Sindh Community Foundation  
Sindh Graduates Association (SGA)  
Sindhica Reforms Society  
Society for Appraisal & Women Empowerment in Rural  
Areas  
society for Appraisal & Women Empowerment in Rural  
Areas  
Society for International Law and Public Policy  
Society for Rural education and Development  
Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child  
Socio-Economic-Educational-Development-Service-  
India  
South Asia Dialogues on Ecological Democracy  
(SADED-Nepal)  
South Asia Partnership Nepal  
South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy  
South Indian Harm Reduction Network  
SPIRAL FARM HOUSE  
Sramabikash Kendra  
Sri Lanka United Nations Friendship Organisation  
SUNITA FOUNDATION  
Support Nepal  
Swabhimani - State Disability Information and Resource  
Centre  
Sylhet Jubo Academy  
Tanneri Chaso Surkhet  
Tarayana Foundation  
The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka  
The Freedom Foundation Trust  
THE RESOURCE NEPAL

The Small Earth Nepal  
 The YP Foundation  
 Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal  
 Transformation Nepal  
 Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha  
 TSD Socioeconomic Research Center  
 UDAAN TRUST  
 UDYAMA  
 UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender  
 Equality and the Empowerment of Women  
 Unification Nepal  
 United Mission to Nepal  
 United Rural Development Organization  
 Universal Versatile Society  
 University of Kathmandu  
 Vikalp  
 Visible Impact  
 Visit to Like my Page-  
<https://www.facebook.com/peace4dalits/> Dalit rights  
 society parsa Nepal  
 Voluntary Action Network India  
 Voluntary Association for Agriculture, General  
 Development, Health & Reconstruction Alliance  
 Volunteers Initiative Nepal  
 Wada Na Todo Abhiyan  
 We Women Lanka  
 Women |Employees Welfare Association  
 Women Acting for Transformative Change  
 Women and Media Collective

Women And Youth Foundation  
 Women Development Program  
 Women Development Society  
 Women For Human Rights Single Women Group  
 Women Forum for Women in Nepal  
 Women with Disabilities Development Foundation  
 Women youth empowerment in social service and  
 human right  
 Women's Center  
 WOMEN'S INITIATIVES  
 Women's Rehabilitation Centre  
 Women's Welfare Center  
 World Vision International  
 World Vision International Nepal  
 Young Women For Change  
 Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN)  
 Youth Advocacy Network (YAN), Pakistan  
 Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka  
 Youth Association for Development  
 Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Nepal  
 Youth for Change and Development Organization  
 Youth for Environment, Education and Development  
 Foundation  
 Youth for Human Rights Nepal  
 Youth forum for human rights  
 Youth network for peace and development (YNPD)  
 YUWA  
 Zo Indigenous Forum

South and South West Asia Working Group



Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism