



**Guide to major group participation in the  
*Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals  
to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015***

26-28 August 2013, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

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The *Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015* will be convened by the Government of Thailand with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 26-28 August 2013 in Bangkok. It will be the first regional high-level event to discuss the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, following the release of the High-Level Panel's report on 30 May 2013.

The Ministerial Dialogue is a unique opportunity for the region to discuss shared concerns and aspirations. Participants will collectively explore and identify the challenges in the Asia-Pacific region that should be addressed in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 based on the lessons learned from the MDGs framework and in the overall of context of the three pillars of sustainable development.

The Dialogue is expected to adopt a Ministerial Declaration, and the outcome of the Dialogue will be shared with the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals as an input from the Asia-Pacific region.

Civil society participation in the Ministerial Dialogue will benefit from the organization of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Consultation on a Just and Transformative Post-2015 Development Framework) on 23-24 August 2013 jointly by IBON International and ESCAP in partnership with the Campaign for People's Goals for Sustainable Development, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, the Asia Pacific Research Network, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and the Asia Development Alliance.

**Accreditation and registration for the Ministerial Dialogue**

Accreditation of major groups<sup>1</sup> (civil society and business) to the meeting is based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of work to the meeting subject and level of activity;

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 64/236 of the UN General Assembly invites the participation of the nine major groups of stakeholders into the formal structure of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. The nine major groups are: Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous People; Non-Governmental Organizations; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; and Farmers.

- ECOSOC and other UN-accredited (or able to provide reliable reference and supportive documentation);
- Participation in the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Consultation on a Just and Transformative Post-2015 Development Framework; and
- The need to ensure balance in relation to geographic representation, scope of mandate, gender, major groups and areas of expertise

The secretariat reserves the right to revoke accreditation at any point. Applicants are advised to ensure that confirmation of acceptance has been received before making travel arrangements. Prior online registration (please refer to acceptance email), and photo ID is required complete the registration process at the United Nations Conference Centre.

### **Key entry points for major groups**

The Ministerial Dialogue will benefit from the leadership role that regionally-based civil society organizations have played in articulating civil society perspectives on this global effort, as well as the increasing experience of the private sector in seeking triple bottom-line business outcomes.

Major group participation is based on the working methods and practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as ongoing processes for Rio+20 follow up that engage civil society – including the Open Working Group. The key entry points for Major Groups in the Dialogue are as follows (please refer to the programme):

#### **I. Informal consultation with the drafting group of the outcome declaration**

- Representatives of civil society will be invited to meet with the Drafting Group on 25 August 2013. Representatives will be selected by the group during the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Consultation on a Just and Transformative Post-2015 Development Framework

#### **II. Roundtable Discussions**

- After panelists have spoken, delegates, including major group organizations, will be invited to address questions to the panelists.
- Questions may be delivered from the designated standing microphone, or from the seats designated for major groups.
- Questions can be asked on an individual basis, but due to the limited time available, coordination of questions to be asked is advisable.
- Questions should be concise and directly relevant to the discussion, as strict time control will be exercised by the Chair. Formal statements must not be delivered during the roundtable sessions.

### **III. Formal statements**

- A formal statement from the Asia Pacific Civil Society Consultation will be delivered at the end of the first day. The statement should be no more than five minutes long.
- Additional formal statements will be received from major groups on the second day. Statements will be delivered on a collective basis (either focusing on a limited number of specific themes, or one per major group). The arrangements for delivery of the collective statements and the time limit will be communicated during the pre-consultation.
- As requested of all speakers in the formal session, written text should be provided as early as possible to support simultaneous interpretation.

### **IV. Adoption of the Declaration**

- The adoption of the Declaration is an intergovernmental process and major groups and other stakeholders will not be invited to comment or contribute directly
- The Chair **may** invite comments from delegates (including civil society) after the adoption of the declaration, subject to the availability of time.

### **Access to the meeting and seating**

- All sessions of the Ministerial Dialogue are open to registered participants unless otherwise specifically noted.
- All nine of the major group sectors will be officially indicated in the formal seating arrangement inside the plenary hall. Two seats with microphone access will be allocated per major group. The chairs must be occupied by representatives and/or facilitators designated by the group, and may be occupied by rotation if desired. Others will find seating in the general area designated for major groups

### **Other consultations**

- The Chair of the meeting and the Chair of the drafting group may informally consult with major groups at any point

### **Coordination**

- Participation and representation will require good coordination among major group participants
- Each major group is invited to designate a facilitator (one per major group) during the Asia Pacific Civil Society Consultation. The list of major group participants will be circulated to facilitate coordination. The facilitator should

contact the secretariat by email to inform on the choice of the group, with members of the group copied.

- Business representatives who will not attend the consultation are invited to be in contact with each other prior to the meeting.
- The facilitator will help with coordinating participation and interventions in the Ministerial Dialogue only. The designation of any such facilitator will not have any bearing on other processes or events.
- Each major group facilitator will be responsible for:
  - Coordinating all formal inputs to the process
  - Liaison with the Secretariat
  - Coordinating formal statements (working with other groups as appropriate)
  - Working with his/her major group sector to identify any representative that might be needed.
- A representative for the major group may be identified to deliver formal statements and to speak on behalf of the group. The designation of any such representative will not have any bearing on other processes or events.

### **Meeting room facilities**

- One room (meeting room G) will be provided for use by major groups for meetings during 26 and 27 August 2013. No printing or reproduction facilities will be made available.

### **Submitting and circulating documentation:**

- No documents should be circulated in the meeting room without prior permission of the secretariat.
- Documents or publicity materials intended for meeting participants can be left at a table that will be set up for this purpose.

### **Contact information**

For further information on major group participation in the Ministerial Dialogue, contact:

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