**Asia Pacific Peoples’ Forum for Sustainable Development 2022**

***Confronting Corporate Power and Demanding State Accountability for Just and Equitable Recovery from the COVID-19 Crises in Asia and the Pacific***

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Virtual Workshop

***People's’ Realities and Achieving Agenda 2030: Unpacking the goals under review and current systemic barriers in the time of COVID-19 in the Asia Pacific Region***

**24 March 2022**

**3:30pm – 5:00pm Fiji time**

**Registration Link**

[2022 APRCEM Disability Constituency Workshop Registration - Google Forms](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WtZ1qaFEj8FRohmIfZv_JpYSQE2HWWwqDsGBCH-MKas/edit)

***CONTEXT***

Central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a commitment to inclusion with its pledge that ‘no one will be left behind’. It is crucial that the specific concerns of persons with disabilities are mainstreamed across the entire 2030 Agenda framework and considered across all targets of SDGs. The global crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has unwinded development gains and exacerbated pre-existing inequalities, leaving most vulnerable more at risk of exclusion. People with disabilities are one of the most excluded groups in our societies and are among the hardest hit by the pandemic. Furthermore, the COVID – 19 crisis has only amplified the already existing marginalization of women and girls with disabilities, who experience further vulnerabilities due to their gender and intersecting inequalities. A disability-inclusive, gendered response is much required to engage women with disabilities in efforts by the governments and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate the effects of the crises and strengthen the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Persons with disabilities have limited access to adequate healthcare, education, vocational training and employment. They also face higher prospects of institutionalization. Women and girls with disabilities are at higher risk of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation. Studies show that women and girls with disabilities are twice as likely to experience gender-based violence compared to women and girls without disabilities. They face significant barriers to accessing justice and the non-inclusion in schemes and policies. Sexual and reproductive rights are most often denied to women with disabilities. When healthcare services are available, they may not be accessible for women with disabilities, or they may face stigma and discrimination from healthcare providers who often lack the knowledge to accommodate them. Source - <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/women/disabled.html>

These exclusions, barriers, and discrimination apply also to the COVID-19 pandemic and its response. We have heard from our regional disability stakeholders that they were distressed about the situation in their countries and were concerned in particular around gender based violence, access to health services, and meeting basic needs.

Since that time, organizations working with disability have undertaken a number of emergency activities to try to ensure that persons with disabilities, were included in response efforts around COVID-19. These efforts have been successful in drawing greater attention to the need to include persons with disabilities in crisis planning and response, but it has been limited in terms of its reach and scope. This has been necessary given time constraints based on the need to respond urgently. It is imperative to dive deeper into the particular situation of persons with disabilities especially women, girls with disabilities and to provide more concrete guidance to States, healthcare providers, U.N. agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders to ensure a gender- and disability- inclusive recovery to COVID-19.

***OBJECTIVES***

* Highlight key issues and offer deeper insights into COVID impact on persons with disabilities especially women with disabilities in the Asia Pacific region.
* Reference best practices and coping mechanisms used by persons with disabilities to build collaborative solutions.
* Propose a comprehensive set of recommendations to guide policy makers, CSOs and UN entities for an inclusive disability and gender sensitive COVID recovery process.

Civil society will discuss challenges and opportunities for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and explore the following questions:

* + What are inclusive and effective collaborative practices delivering results for persons with disabilities especially in the post COVID recovery process?
  + What role are persons with disabilities playing in the COVID response and recovery and what lessons can we learn for SDG implementation?
  + How to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, are not left behind, in effort to building back inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world?
* What are the key lessons learnt - what works and what doesn’t? And why?
* What are the specific roles and contributions of OPDs, particularly in reaching out to those left behind, in advancing an inclusive recovery?
* What are our key messages and recommendations?
* What are some ‘new ways of collaborative working’ needed to transform the lives of persons with disabilities—by 2030?

This side-event will focus on presenting concrete country examples, creating a dialogue between disability constituencies and civil society. It will be moderated by renowned experts from the disability inclusion sector from the Asia Pacific region.

Moderator:

Speakers:

\*\*\*Speakers to come from each of the subregions:

Southeast Asia

Pacific

North and Central Asia

South and Southwest Asia

East and Northeast Asia

Agenda

Opening Statements (5 min)

Overview and Context- by Moderator (5 min)

\*\*\*Housekeeping and Ground Rules

Panel Discussion (25 min)- by Speakers (5 min each speaker)

Questions and Answers / Discussions (30 min)- by Moderator and participants

Closing (5 min)

\*The webinar will be conducted in English.

 \*International Sign interpretation and live captioning will be provided.