



**Asia Development Alliance (ADA) 2013
Bangkok, 31 Jan. to 2 Feb. 2013**

Asian Voice for the World We Want 2015

ADA Bangkok Statement on Post 2015 Development Agenda

1. The world today, including Asia, is mired in multiple crises; economic/financial, food and energy, climate change and nuclear threats and weakening democratic governance, as illustrated in the recent “currency wars”, the Arab Spring, Occupy Wall Street Movement and the Fukushima incident. These crises have worsened the plight of more than half of humanity facing daily struggles for survival, as they live without adequate access to food, water, sanitation, shelter, basic education and healthcare under the threat of climate change. This situation is ongoing or worsening in many places and compelling evidence of the failure of the current socio-economic policies to uplift more than two bottom billions from a state of abject poverty, conflict, social insecurity and environmental degradation.
2. In Asia, the most populous, diverse and dynamic region of the world in terms of culture, religion, politics and economy, civil society movements are witnessing newly emerging challenges and threats to people’s human rights, security and sovereignty such as escalating military tensions around the Korean peninsula, lingering consequences from the Fukushima nuclear incident and territorial tensions and conflicts on the East Asia Sea as well as intra-state conflicts in many parts of the region.
3. Despite the democratic opening of Burma/Myanmar, many human rights defenders and democracy advocates are faced with shrinking democratic space, counter-enabling environment for CSO development effectiveness and political oppressions. We also witness the harsh reality that the hard-fought democracy over the last decades is sliding back into an old authoritarian regime and oligarchy that result in more violations of basic human rights such as freedom of expression, association and assembly.
4. In the midst of this deepening multiple crises we, over 70 participants, mainly representatives of national and sub-national development NGO/CSO platforms and international CSOs and their platforms met in Bangkok in the founding meeting of the Asia Development Alliance (ADA) to discuss those challenges in the context of the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda and our strategic responses under the theme “Asian Voice for the World We Want 2015”.
5. Those multiple crises clearly revealed to us a total failure in this dominant neoliberal political and economic paradigm over the last decades which was characterized by the liberalization of trade, investment, and labour market, the shrinking of public domains and spheres, increasing power of trans-national corporations (TNCs) and international financial and trade institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO) and their powerful allies in many governments.
6. The perception that Asia is the world’s growth engine masks the fact that the majority of the world’s poor live in the region and are actually buffeted by high levels of inequality and uneven democratic environments. Today for many poor people in Asia, development means less job security, more corruption, more fragility, instability and conflicts rather than more prosperity, safety and welfare.

7. This paradox of the Asian reality compelled and challenged us to articulate, rally around and advance our vision and demand for an alternative development framework grounded on the principles of human rights, equity, social justice, peace, international solidarity, gender equality, decent work, cultural diversity, environmental sustainability, wellbeing and happiness of all.
8. Deep system-wide change to existing economic institutions is urgently needed to reverse typical conditions of contemporary globalizing economies that are unsustainable, unfair, unstable and undemocratic. The alternative socio-economic paradigm requires profound transformations in the fundamental values and organizing principles of society. Any new system of sustainable economies should adopt sustainable development paradigms that emphasize quality of life and material sufficiency for all, human solidarity and enhanced global equity, affinity with nature and ecological sustainability
9. The Post 2015 Development Agenda spearheaded by the UN has opened up the debate on the usefulness and shortcomings of the current MDGs framework and provided us with an opportunity to revisit and define our development agenda and strategies in the current Asian context. At the same time, it provides an opportunity and challenge to CSOs in Asia –to empower people living in poverty and insecurity to claim their own rights.
10. Learning from the recent Rio+20 process and others, it is important for civil society actors to secure concrete and meaningful mechanisms for engagement in shaping a pro-active post-2015 development agenda and in its implementation. At the same time, it is crucial to involve all development actors – both the rights-holders and duty-bearers – to institutionalize accountability mechanisms for national governments and international institutions.
11. We strongly believe that The Post 2015 Development Agenda should:
 - a) Address as a top priority the rising inequality and injustice between, among and within countries and regions, between the rich and poor, men and women, and the urban and rural through fair redistribution of wealth, power and resources with a focus on social protection mechanism,
 - b) Emphasize the MDGs acceleration efforts to make sure that it is not used as an excuse for governments and international organizations to renege on their MDG commitments, the deadline of which is still three years away,
 - c) Take a holistic approach taking into account all dimensions and pillars of development such as economic, social, political, cultural, environmental and spiritual,
 - d) Be framed by human rights-based approaches to development with global sustainability principles as articulated by the People's Sustainability Treaties (PST) www.sustainabilitytreaties.org and the framework for Global Sustainability Goals (GSGs) www.reflectiongroup.org,
 - e) Emphasizing the human rights mainstreaming by placing the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development and the ratification of all human rights treaties, in particular, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and its Optional Protocol at the center of policy discourse,
 - f) Utilize fully the expertise available at the UN human rights mechanisms such as the UN special procedures, treaty bodies, Universal Periodic Review (UPR), in particular, the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity,
 - g) Ensure progressive policy coherence for development among international organizations including international financial institutions in accordance with internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) based on the principles of human rights, peace, democracy and ecological sustainability,
 - h) Focus on the structural causes of poverty along with the nexus between domestic and global economic and financial policies,



- i) Place concerns, preoccupations and interests of people living in poverty in all regions and countries, in particular the 2011 Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at the center of policy discourse,
 - j) Pay special attention to fragility, human security and conflict transformation especially Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs),
 - k) Pay special attention to the challenges facing resilient communities against natural disasters and climate change,
 - l) Pay special attention to challenges of urbanization and migration to sustainable human development,
 - m) Ensure adequate financing for development beyond the Monterrey Consensus including debt cancellation, Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), disarmament and taxation reform as well as tackling tax dodging practices and
 - n) Strengthen both national and international supervisory mechanisms to regulate transnational corporations and speculative financial capitals
12. We are deeply concerned, however, that the current limited timeframe may not do justice to the billions of helpless and voiceless people in Asia as the process is still top-down and a majority of people cannot participate due to lack of access to information and resources despite much efforts by the UN and relevant agencies.
13. We are convinced that the national development CSO/NGO platforms in partnership with international CSOs and their platforms can and should play a central role as an interface and advocacy platform in engaging with our national governments and international institutions.
14. Therefore, in order to make the Post 2015 dialogue more inclusive, effective and thus meaningful, we commit
- a) To participate as actively as possible in both off and online, to bring the voice of people whose voices need to be heard,
 - b) To enable people and local communities to claim their rights to participate in agenda-setting and decision-making processes in matters that affect their lives,
 - c) To articulate our own vision of alternative development so that the people's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms are at the center,
 - d) To build a bottom-up rainbow coalition among different countries, sectors and groups as well as with like-minded stakeholders based on common goals and strategies,
 - e) To advocate more proactively for the democratization of global and national governance mechanisms and the decision-making processes affecting the peoples' lives at all levels – local, national, regional and global,
 - f) To engage nationally and internationally with national governments and parliaments to make them more accountable to what they have pledged and agreed, and to implement them at home.

Asia Development Alliance (ADA)

is a regional forum of national and sub-national development NGO/CSO platforms in Asia to promote more effective communication, coordination and cooperation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda process.

It was officially launched in Bangkok on 2 February 2013.

[http://www.facebook.com/groups/ADA2013/
ADA201322@gmail.com](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ADA2013/ADA201322@gmail.com)

List of Participating CSOs in ADA 2013

National and Sub-national Development CSO/NGO Platforms in Asia

South Asia

1. Awaz Foundation Pakistan www.awazcds.org.pk
2. Bangladesh Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) www.ngofederationbd.net
3. NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) www.ngofederation.org
4. People's Budget Initiative (PBI) India www.cbgaindia.org/advocacy_peoples_budget_initiative.php
5. Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan-Campaign for Good Governance (SUPRO), Bangladesh www.supro.org
6. Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) www.vaniindia.org
7. Wada Na Todo Abyian (Don't Break Promise) in India (WNTA) www.wadanatodo.net/

Southeast Asia

8. Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) Philippines www.code-ngo.org
9. Cooperation Committee on Cambodia (CCC) www.ccc-cambodia.org
10. FONGTIL-Forum NGO Timor Leste (FONGTIL) www.fongtil.org
11. Indonesia Society for Social Transformation (INSIST) www.insist.or.id
12. International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID) www.infid.org
13. NGO Forum on Cambodia (NFC) www.ngoforum.org.kh

Northeast Asia

14. China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) www.cango.org
15. Japan Association of Charitable Organizations (JACO) www.kohokyo.or.jp
16. Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) www.janic.org
17. Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID) www.kofid.org
18. Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC) www.ngokcoc.or.kr
19. National Forum for Development and Cooperation (NFDC) in Mongolia
20. Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID) www.taiwanaid.org

International CSOs and Platforms in Asia

1. Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC) www.etcgroup.org
2. ActionAid (AA) Asia www.actionaid.org
3. Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) www.forum-asia.org
4. Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC) www.amrc.org.hk
5. Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) www.apwld.org
6. Beyond 2015 – Asia www.beyond2015.org
7. CIVICUS Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA) www.civicus.org
8. Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) www.dawnnet.org
9. Dignity International www.dignityinternational.org
10. Friends of Earth (FOE) Asia Pacific www.foei.org
11. Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) - Asia www.whiteband.org/en/asia
12. Good Neighbors International (GNI) www.goodneighbors.org
13. International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP) www.ong-ngo.org
14. Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD) www.apmdd.org
15. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Watch www.ldcwatch.org
16. NGO Forum on ADB (ADB Watch) www.forum-adb.org
17. Oxfam Asia www.oxfam.org
18. Pax Romana ICMICA Asia www.icmica-miic.org
19. People's Sustainability Treaty (PST) www.sustainabilitytreaties.org
20. Save the Children (SC) Asia www.savethechildren.org
21. Social Watch (SW) Asia www.socialwatch.org
22. South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) www.saape.org
23. South East Asia Committee for Advocacy (SEACA) www.seaca.net
24. Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers www.workersconnection.org
25. Third World Network (TWN) www.twn.my
26. World Vision (WV) Asia Pacific www.wvasiapacific.org
27. Asian Resource Foundation (ARF) www.arf-asia.org