ADA

Asia Development Alliance

ADA Annual Report
January – December 2017

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1. Introduction

The Asia Development Alliance (ADA) is an international network of national or sub-national multi-sectoral NGO/CSO platforms (NP) or umbrellas in Asia engaged in development issues in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ADA is a regional (Asia) network among members of International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP), CIVICUS AGNA and other NPs engaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ADA is a regional space and process for policy dialogue with governments and international organizations such as the UN, ADB and other stakeholders on issues related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Objectives

2.1. **Capacity Building** to strengthen the capacity of ADA members to achieve objectives, exchange and learning of various national and regional platforms in Asia and IFP

2.2. **Advocacy** to strengthen policy advocacy and campaign for effective implementation of SDGs at various national, regional and global levels.

2.3. **Membership and leadership** to strengthen membership base and internal governance process for effective decision-making and project management

3. ADA Activities: 2016-17

ADA's activities revolve around two core areas at the National, Sub-regional, Regional and Global levels., through

- **Capacity Building on Strategic Planning**
- **Outreach and Advocacy**

While many activities such as national level capacity building workshops on SDGs, regional and sub regional level meetings and few side events during HLPF (at the global level) were organised by ADA , it was actively involved in many advocacy missions at regional and global levels.

3.1. Capacity Building on strategic planning

3.1.1. National Level

3.1.1.1. SDG Consultation-Singapore

Asia Development Alliance (ADA) along with its partners Asia Democratic Network (ADN) and ALMOS - Alliance of Like-Minded CSOs in Singapore (ALMOS) a network of CSOs working on UPR and SDGs in Singapore including a group called "Function 8", mainly former political prisoners, organized a half day consultation on SDG and goal #16 in

particular on Sunday, 15 January 2017 at 2.30 - 5pm at The Agora, #03-142, 28 Sin Ming Lane, Midview City, 573972, Singapore. For detailed report, read <u>here</u>

3.1.1.2. National workshop held on SDG 16 on 25-26 January, Kathmandu, Nepal

The civil society organizations in Nepal organized two-day national workshop on SDG goal number 16 in Kathmandu. The workshop was organized in partnership with NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), Nepal SDGs Forum, ADA, ADN and TAP Network. Many prominent civil society organizations of Nepal attended this crucial workshop to deliberate the issues related State of Nepal's democracy in South Asia. For detailed report, read <u>here</u>

3.1.1.3. National Workshop on UN Sustainable Development- Thimpu, Bhutan, 24th July, 2017

The national workshop was conducted on 24th July in Thimphu, Bhutan with about 30 participants from different CSOs. The welcome speech was given by Aum Chime Wangdi, Secretary General of Tarayana Foundation, followed by short input from Tshering Phuntsho from UNDP Bhutan. Later presentation on Bhutanese government's action plan on SDGs was given by Lhaba Tshering, who also highlighted the Gross National Happiness Commission. One important lesson learnt from GNH can and perhaps must be an ultimate goal of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ! This was followed by discussion on SDGs including it's history, background, contents, and role of CSOs for implementation and monitoring.

Participants had group discussion on how each of 169 targets under 5 P - People (social development), Prosperity (economic development), Planet (environment), Peace (Goal 16) and Partnership (Goal 17) - is relevant to Bhutan as a way to identify priority issues for CSO action.

3.1.1.4. National Workshop on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Myanmar

Asia Development Alliance (ADA) in partnership with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC) as the local host organized the national workshop on 2:00 to 6:00 pm on Wednesday 26 July 2017 in Yangon.

The training workshop was an initiative of Asia Development Alliance (ADA) to strengthen the advocacy capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Myanmar on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national

and sub-national/local level. The workshop helped CSOs in Myanmar to learn about SDGs as well as promoting networking among CSOs engaged in various sectors and issues. Anselmo Lee, ADA co-convener facilitated the session including a lecture on SDGs . More than 30 participants from local CSOs in Myanmar attend it the workshop.

3.1.1.5. National Workshop on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of civil society ,Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, August 19, 2017

ADA organised its third national workshop on SDGs after Bhutan and Myanmar at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in partnership with Asia Democracy Network (ADN) ,Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and International Forum of National NGO/CSO Platforms (IFP) with Local Hosts : Mongolia Democracy Network (MDN), Open Society Forum (OSF) and the Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) in Mongolia. This training workshop was an initiative of ADA to strengthen the advocacy capacity of civil society organizations in Mongolia on the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals at the national and sub-national/local level.

Almost 52 civil society representatives from Mongolia participated in this important workshop. At the end of the workshop, the participants demanded a Mongolian translation of the Agenda 2030 so that decision makers don't focus on just one goal. The workshop also emphasized the need to engage with the government and forming coalition of CSOs for better advocacy at the national and regional and global levels.

3.1.2. Sub Regional Level:

At the sub regional level, ADA organized various training and capacity building programs (GALA East and South Asia)

3.1.3. GALA East Asia: Phnom Penh, Cambodia- 18-23 October, 2017

The 5th Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia (GALA) Academy – East Asia is a joint initiative by Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and Asia Democracy Network (ADN) with the aim of strengthening advocacy capacity of CSOs for defending and promoting civic and democratic space and human rights through strategic "glocal (global and local)" actions on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 6 days training was organised in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 18 to 23 Oct. 2017 in partnership with the International Forum of National NGO/CSO Platforms (IFP), Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network and Asia Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) with the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) as a local host.

Trainees from the countries of Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Japan, S. Korea, Philippines and Singapore underwent the training on SDG 16 and SDG 17 . The trainees designed their country level indicators for monitoring SDG 16. The participants were also trained on framing national indicators on SDG 16 , based on the global indicators. During this training, the participant also prepared their draft Guidelines and Timeline for CSO engagement in HLPF VNR 2017 country specific guidelines on VNR after intensive training on SDG 16 Mapping about Glocal Actors (GO, CSO and Multi-stake Holders (MSH)). Later the participants also did the country level strategic planning to be shared with the wider civil society.

- they can put into practice in their work at national level.

3.1.4. GALA South Asia: Pokhara, Nepal- 12-16 November, 2017

The 5th Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia (GALA) Academy – South Asia was organised in Pokhara, Nepal from 12 to 16 Nov. 2017 in partnership with the International Forum of National NGO/CSO Platforms (IFP), Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network and Asia Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) with the NGO Federation of Nepal as a local host.

Trainees from the countries of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka underwent the training on SDG 16 and SDG 17 . Apart from them, there were few trainees from Latvia, Zambia, Slovakia, Nigeria and Senegal as a regional partnership solidarity. The trainees designed their country level indicators for monitoring SDG 16. The participants were also trained on framing national indicators on SDG 16 , based on the global indicators. During this training, the participant also prepared their draft Guidelines and Timeline for CSO engagement in HLPF VNR 2017 country specific guidelines on VNR after intensive training on SDG 16 Mapping about Glocal Actors (GO, CSO and Multi-stake Holders (MSH)). Later the participants also did the country level strategic planning, which will be shared with with the wider civil society following GALA S. Asia.

3.1.5. Regional Level

Following regional activities were organized by ADA in 2017

3.1.5.1. ADA-APSD Workshop on HLPF VNR (Bangkok, 24-25 Feb. 2017)

ADA along with Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) organized the regional workshop on Voluntary National Review (VNR) of UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in Bangkok on 24-25 February, 2017. The workshop aimed at discussing the role of CSOs in upcoming HLPF at New York in July, 2017. The main takeaways of the meeting were: opportunities to be engaged with the respective government, even though it's a voluntary process, the outcome of the meetings can be used for advocacy at the national level, HLPF may not be very rigorous, but it still provides great value, holding governments accountable. It was also

discussed that government pick easy targets to implement; But few goals like SDG 16 are difficult issues. It was also discussed to universalize SDG 16 by Integrating human rights approaching. Full excerpts of the country presentations on UN HLPF VNR can be found here

3.2. Outreach and Advocacy

3.2.1. Regional Level

3.2.1.1. The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development: 26-28 March 2017 in Bangkok.

The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development organized by civil society (the secretariat represented by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development as a coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)), in collaboration with the ESCAP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) as a preparatory meeting for the APFSD.

Over 150 civil society organizations with equitable geographical, thematic, sectoral and gender coverages from all across Asia and Pacific attended the three days' deliberations. ADA facilitated the session on 9 VNR Reporting countries during on day one. Later, the VNR summary report was refined using ADA's regional consultation report on SDG and VNR , held earlier in Bangkok. The summary report on the VNR was later circulated with APCSF participants and submitted to UN ESCAP during APFSD.

3.2.2. Sub Regional Level

3.2.2.1. CSO Reflection on Commitment in Paris Peace Accords, after 26 Years – Phnon Penh, 19 Oct. 2017

On the occasion of the 26th Anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement (PPA), the civil society organizations in Cambodia called on the Royal Government of Cambodia and on all the countries involved in the 1991 Paris Conference to respect their engagements to promote and protect democracy and human rights in Cambodia. Despite the Prime Minister's recent claim that "the Paris Peace Agreement is like a ghost", the Paris agreement and particularly the ACPS and the ASIT constitute multilateral treaties which are legally binding. Further, the principles of multi-party democracy and respect for human rights are enshrined in Articles 1, 31, 34 New and 35 of the constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, creating a further obligation for the Cambodian authorities to not only respect, but promote such key principles.

The meeting witnessed participation from many human right organizations including the GALA trainees participation from almost 11 countries in Asia.

3.2.2.2. Exchange & learning ADA-IFP workshop, October 24 - Phnom Penh

An exchange & learning workshop around good practices on Agenda 2030 (Goals 16 & Goal 17) was organized on October 24 in Phnom Penh by ADA & the IFP, in the sidelines of the GALAA training and before the IFP's Council meeting by International Forum of national NGO platforms (IFP) and Asia Development Alliance (ADA).

The meeting was attended by almost 40 participants from IFP Council members and ADA members , especially the GALA East Asia participants.

Purpose of workshop: This workshop aimed to address how the Sustainable Development Goals are approached in different countries and at the international level. The overarching theme is an enabling environment for civil society, with a focus on:

- Meaningful, responsive and inclusive participation mechanisms for civil society in decision-making at all levels (national, regional and international).
- Data-monitoring by civil society of progress linked to indicators, targets & goals, including for CSO involvement in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) processes.

Outcomes:

- Participants had the opportunity to identify and articulate the challenges for civil society in influencing the implementation of the SDGs in their national context;
- Participants were able to compare notes, exchanging solutions and practices on innovative advocacy and communication strategies as well as on participatory mechanisms;
- Participants learnt the tools, tips and examples that

3.2.2.3.   ADA Steering Committee (25 Feb. 2017)

ADA's Steering Committee was held on the afternoon of 25 February, which was attended by the Steering Committee members and few observers from Nepal, Bangladesh and Singapore. The meeting discussed the legal registration and secretariat of ADA apart from governance and membership structure of ADA. The IFP-EU funding to ADA was also discussed elaborately with action plan and budget for 2017-20.

3.2.2.4.   Regional consultation on shrinking civic space - Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines and India (26 Feb. 2017)

Shrinking democratic and civil society spaces in most of the countries is a matter of grave concerns and most of the countries in Asia are already facing the brunt. Taking these issues forward, the workshop was designed to discuss the issues in these four countries of south and east Asia. In Cambodia, there are serious apprehensions on the new Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (also called LANGO) curtailing the ability of civil society. Its been described as containing "deeply worrisome provisions with regard to the imposition of mandatory registration, as well as onerous registration requirements, reporting obligations, and broad and vague grounds for denial of registration and deregistration. In Pakistan, NGOs are fighting for the space to express their views, as governments introduce restrictions on peaceful assembly and of association, on foreign funding, barriers to registration, intervention in CSOs' internal affairs, and other forms of harassment have multiplied. Especially for those working on the issues of human rights and same is the case with India. In Philippine, the threat to impose martial law and for the first time since last Martial law, the the PH Development Plan Committees did not include CSOs as members.

3.2.2.5. Capacity Development and Strengthening in the Asia region: Regional Strategy Meeting June 26-28th 2017 Manila, Philippines

CIVICUS in partnership with CODE NGO (ADA member) organised the Asia regional meeting to identify capacity gaps in training needs in order to fill those gaps with capacity strengthening sessions. The three days' regional workshop focussed on the issues of #DataForAction (how and what data to collect) and data presentation tools, need and capacity building assessment in Asia and the issue of digital security. Please refer to the link for more information on data collection and analysis tools. The three days training program, was highly appreciated by the participants and there were requests to organize such more but elaborated programs as the CSO's collect huge volumes of data and information but don't know how to use or showcase real information for advocacy purpose. Similarly, digital security is becoming one of the gravest problems in the region and the CSOs are also getting impacted because of their inability to protect their data and information.

3.2.2.6. Creating a seat at the table - Workshop on engaging multiple perspectives for the 2030 Agenda , 23-25 August 2017, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its set of SDGs has been adopted – inclusion and involvement of stakeholders is an important tenet of the agenda, in relation to both implementation process and outcomes (sharing benefits of development, leaving no one behind). The engagement challenge is both internal and external: Internal stakeholders include the wide array of ministries and agencies responsible for different areas of implementation and which may not all be aware of the 2030 Agenda, or may face different challenges in its full implementation. External stakeholders include the wider public, and others. In its formal engagement processes, the United Nations has agreed to the designation of specific "major groups" as well as other stakeholders.

Taking this as a background the UNESCAP had organized this meeting in Bangkok from 23-25 August at United Nation Convention Center, Bangkok where ADA was also one of those solicited participants to put forth its views from regional perspective. ADA along with few partners also participated in this important deliberation.

It was observed that there is a strong interest from member's state to improve planning and prioritization for better engagement Impact and accelerate action, however there are many challenges that impacts the meaningful participation of stakeholders. At the same time, it was found that many countries in Asia-Pacific are struggling to get a clear road map. Hence a need of stakeholder mapping was also emphasized. It was highlighted that cooperation with shared vision can strengthen sustainable development. A transformative and holistic Regional Roadmap relies on addressing structural impediments and systemic barriers.

It must take into serious consideration targeted and sustained commitments on development finance and co-operation as well as inclusive collection and disaggregation of data to track the gaps and progress condition of the marginalized sectors. The role of civil society in outreach, information dissemination and capacity building on SDGs was also discussed apart from their challenges and barriers that they face in the community while capacitating them on the grass root level issues related to SDGs.

Missing data is the biggest challenge in effective mechanism apart from accountability and resources in redefining SDGs to suit the national agenda.

3.2.2.7. People's SAARC : Kathmandu, Nepal (13 – 14 October, 2017)

The People's SAARC regional meeting on Changing Political Landscape of South Asia and role of People's SAARC was organised on 13-14 September, 2017 by NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) and South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) in Kathmandu. Besides the changing political landscape and the role of People's SAARC in South Asia the meeting also highlighted that in the region people are being more and more politically alienated, denied fundamental rights as well as access to instruments necessary for realising their rights, therefore, there is a need for civil society and peoples' movements in the region is to come up with and assert an alternative vision of regional integration or new regionalism based on peoples' needs and aspirations. The SAARC needs to be strengthened in order to make an effective effort for regional cooperation, regional integrity and peace and SAARC should not be in a limbo irrespective of the bilateral issues between member countries. Please read the full report here. The CSOs from across the SAARC nations actively participated in the two days productive meeting and discussions were held around reviving the people's movement in the context of continued shrinking spaces for the civil society especially those working on the right based approach. The CSO's came up with the statement to reaffirm the commitment to human rights, freedom of expression, justice, peace, security, and democracy in the region, for equity for all and to eliminate all forms of discrimination. ADA actively participated in the two days meeting.

3.2.2.8. Regional knowledge Exchange (RKE) : Supporting Policy Coherence for Accelerating Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda, 1-4 October, 2017, Manila, Philippines

3.2.2.8.1. CSO Forum – October 1, 2017, Manila

The RKE in Manila organised by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) and was the second one, the first one was held last year in BKK. The aim of the first one was to exchange knowledge on SDG implementation, monitoring, etc. amongst UNDP country teams, their partners and CSOs at the national and regional (AP) levels.

The conference objective this year aimed at bringing more policy coherence in the SDG implementation. This year, BRH decided to give CSOs a bigger space by organising a half-day consultation. This was also a good opportunity for the CSO's to bring in their thoughts and share practices on SDGs

and Agenda 2030. A Task Force on Key Messages and Recommendations was formed to look through the whole program for the 4 days and maximise spaces for CSO intervention and ADA was represented by its many partners from across Asia.

The interventions and participation in the RKE might be able to guide the UNDP in building CSO and communities' capacities to engage with the government at the local, national, regional and global (e.g. HLPF and UNGA) levels apart from building network with the UN and with each other to be able to move valuable resources and knowledge in pushing for Agenda 2030.

CSO Statement - RKE Manila, 2017

3.2.2.8.2.   The Regional Knowledge Exchange: Implementing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, 2-4 October 2017, Manila

The 2017 Regional Knowledge Exchange was co-hosted by the Government of the Philippines, through the National Economic and Development Authority that brought together senior government officials and civil society organizations from Asia and the Pacific who are involved in planning, financing, monitoring and implementing the 2030 Agenda, together with technical experts, civil society and development partners. The theme of the 2017 Regional Knowledge Exchange was on ensuring policy coherence across sectors and between national and sub-national governments to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It also looked at how countries are promoting coherence in terms of their financing of the SDGs across both public and private sectors, as well as international and domestic sources of financing. The links provides more information about the event.

3.2.2.9.   North-East Asian Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals , 10-11 October 2017, Beijing, China

The North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals was organised to ensure the continued dialogue among stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, the private sector, and international community. The forum brought together and connect key players from various sectors and roles, and enable exchanges on the challenges and opportunities as well as the way forward in striving towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The forum also aimed at strengthening subregional perspective on the theme of the 5th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2018, "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies" and ensured that these perspectives are well-captured in regional and global dialogue and review of progress. The forum discussed ways to ensure that subregional progress on the selected SDGs for review by the HLPF 2018 include water,

energy, cities, responsible consumption and life on land as well as the means of implementation and partnership is taken into account at both global and regional levels, and by subregional cooperation efforts.

The main objective of the Forum was to enable an inclusive dialogue among multistakeholder groups in North-East Asia on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure that subregional perspectives on supporting the follow- up and review of the Agenda are well reflected in the relevant regional and global processes.

3.2.2.10. Asia-Pacific Conference on Resilience of Democracy with the theme "21st Century Solutions for 21st Century Challenges to Democracy"- 13-14 December, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Globally, democracy is at a crossroads and cannot be taken for granted. While democracy has spread over the past 40 years, recent events have raised alarm bells across the globe due to the growing popular distrust towards political actors and parties, the rise of populist movements, and the concentration of executive power in the hands of presidents and prime ministers. These dire times therefore require a coalition of social actors who can engage to protect the values of democracy.

Taking these as a background, the conference was jointly organized by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and Democracy Reporting International (DRI), held on 13-14 December 2017 at Hotel Mövenpick, Colombo, Sri Lanka. ADA participated in this important deliberation as part of its agenda to sustain active democracies.

The Conference's goal was to create actionable solutions to identified challenges, which the participants themselves could implement. The participants from Asia and the Pacific found innovative solutions to specific challenges of democracy and focussed on collaborative problem-solving, instead of passive listening. At the end of the Conference, participants were agreed upon a set of solutions to identified challenges ready to be followed up in their respective countries. The conference envisaged participants from Asia and the Pacific region comprised of institutional and/or individual experts, namely: - Policymakers and relevant government officials - Civil society representatives including NGOs, the academe, think tanks - Media-savvy young professionals - Up-and-coming political actors - Members of the media (traditional and new media)

3.2.3. Global Level :

There were various representations from ADA at the global level for its advocacy through global events,i4C, AGNA, CIVICUS, HLPF, C20 during the last one year.

3.2.3.1. I4C inter-regional Meeting : Johannesburg (16-19 May, 2017)

The Inter-Regional Retreat took place on Tuesday May 16th to Friday May 19th at OPEN: Collaborative Work Spaces in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Building upon the feedback received from various incubators across 6 regions globally, this four day event was a great effort to bring together the helper hub, regional hub incubators, board members, staff and community members to learn, finalise the global governance mechanism and provide a retreat for peer learning and strengthening inter-regional connections. Various parallel sessions were organised for new community and staff member orientation.

3.2.3.2.   AGNA Meeting (19-20 May, 2017)

More than 40 countries participated in this two days meeting, in a sub-group of approximately 15, and in small teams of 3 or 4
The main objectives of the two days meetings were:

- to refine and adjust the campaign for different countries/regions, including specific ideas for a SPEAK!
- to gain new skills in campaign development, the tools which can be applied to any other campaign that our organisation may develop in the future (for ADA it's SDG's related campaigns)
- to share learnings with each other, including differences in the state of civic space and how this could/should impact the way we fight for our basic freedoms

The learning exchange focused on freedom of expression and campaigning, two key elements in today's global context, particularly in those countries in which basic freedoms are under threat. The members got an opportunity to share inspiring stories and successful experiences in this field while acquiring new skills and capacities.
The sessions focused on new campaign SPEAK! Based on the experiences of Global Day of Citizen Action (GDCA), which CIVICUS helped coordinate over the past three years. The campaign has been huge success therefore the efforts furing these two day's meeting was to take things to the next level. So, in 2017, the campaign now known as SPEAK!
The specific focus during the two day's meeting was freedom of expression: helping to give a voice to everyone, everywhere. (The campaign will culminate in 3 days of global action, currently planned for September). This two-day workshop on on SPEAK used the methodology created by the crew at Mobilisation Lab.

3.2.3.3.   C 20 18-19 June, Hamburg

At the C20 Summit on 18-19 June 2017, more than 450 individuals representing more than 200 NGOs from over 60 countries came together in Hamburg to discuss "The World We Want", making the voice of civil society heard within the G20. In plenary sessions and workshops, issues like shrinking spaces, global health, climate, agriculture, finance systems reform and others were discussed, as well as new networks built. One of the highlights was the discussion with Chancellor Merkel. ADA was well represented in this important event.

The participants supported the <u>C20 Communique</u>. The Communique, together with the <u>C20 Recommendations</u>, lays out the asks of civil society organisations from more than 60 countries to the G20 Leaders' Summit on 7-8 July 2017 in Hamburg.

The C20 Communique is <u>here</u> and the C20 Recommendations <u>here</u>. Some observations from the civil society perspective <u>here</u>

3.2.3.4. High Level Political Forum (July 10-19), New York, 2017

3.2.3.4.1. Highlights: ADA initiatives, involvement and Participation in HLPF 2017

The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, was held from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017; including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Monday, 17 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017.

The theme was "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The set of goals to be reviewed in depth were the following, including Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, that will be considered each year:

Apart from organizing a side event with TAP network on 14th July ("*Beyond VNRs: Global Workshop on Civil Society Reporting for SDG16")* , ADA also participated in Weekend meetings organized by A4SD and TAP meeting on 'Justice and SDG16: National Civil Society Advocacy Workshop'. Followings are the highlights of the HLPF where ADA was engaged actively. Many ADA members from Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia, India, Japan, S. Korea, Thailand participated in HLPF, from 10 to 19th July, at New York. Read ADA's full report <u>here</u>

3.2.3.5. Leadership Development Program (LDP) – 18-21 November, Dhulikhel, Nepal

In a bid to stimulate debate and peer exchange on leadership, the International Forum for NGO Platforms(IFP) jointly with Community Development Resource Association (CDRA) conducted a leadership training for CSO leaders from 18th – 21st November 2017 at Dhulikhel Lodge Resort-Nepal. The Leadership Development Program (#LDP) that brought together at least 12 CSO platform leaders (from Zambia, Indonesia, Slovenia, Chez Republic, India (ADA), Nepal (ADA), Latvia, Brazil, Seychelles, Nigeria, Uganda and Uruguay) aimed at developing them as social change actors and preparing the next generation of leaders who would steer the role of national NGO platforms towards social change. ADA was represented in this important deliberation as a regional platforms to share the stories of change in Asia.

Ms. Nomvula Dramni the Executive Director of Community Development Resource Association while facilitating during the training emphasized that – "Leadership is about ability to connect with your power, and if you don't know the essence of your leadership, then you lead anyhow".

The 4 days training provided an opportunity for participants to understand social change, role of CSO platforms in social change as well as the kind of leadership that CSO platforms should be offering to enhance social change.

As take-aways from this training; agency ought to be at the center of social change, alliance building is critical in the pursuance of social change, self change can greatly impact on social change, legitimacy and credibility of CSO platforms are fundamental during campaigning for social change, CSO platform leaders ought to learn how to manage diversity within the membership so to avoid the tensions that tend to rise and end up affecting the campaign for social change. It's important to understand the context within which you are campaigning for social change citizens(understand the social change landscape which is regularly changing.

3.2.3.6. 2017 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights : Geneva, 27-29 November, 2017

The central theme of the 2017 UN Forum was "Realizing Access to Effective Remedy". The Forum addressed the critical issue of access to remedy by examining systemic flaws and shortcomings in existing efforts and reviewing emerging good practices and innovations, with a view to achieving greater coherence and committed action in the service of human rights and rights-holders. Discussions included the full range of mechanisms covered by the third pillar of the Guiding Principles: from State-based judicial and non-judicial mechanisms to non-State-based remediation and grievance mechanisms involving companies, industry bodies, multi-stakeholder initiatives and regional and international institutions.

A few ADA members met and discussed the CSO engagement on SDGs and Business and Human Rights (BHR) about the G20 Summit in Argentina in 2018, in Geneva during the 6th UN Global Forum on Business and Human Rights (GF-BHR) on 24 Nov. 2017. Among 5 Asian G20 countries, Mugianto from INFID and Hideki Wakabayashi from JANIC together with Anselmo Lee, ADA Co-convener discussed ADA engagement and agreed to continue to work together with other ADA members in Indonesia and China, as well as other CSOs in other continents through IFP. the SDGs agenda was adopted as the agenda of G20 Hanzhou Summit in 2016 in China in the name of Sustainable Development Sector, and BHR at Hamburg Summit in 2018 in Germany.

3.2.3.7. International civil society Week : Fiji

International Civil Society Week (ICSW) is a key global gathering for civil society and other stakeholders to engage constructively in finding common solutions to global challenges. In December 2017, CIVICUS

in partnership with the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) organized this event in the Pacific region to meet and discuss climate and social justice in continuation to several key intergovernmental initiatives, including COP 23, the UN's Oceans Conference and the UN international year of sustainable tourism for development that Pacific hosted successfully. ADA was represented by its few members during the event and represented in key events especially those organised by AGNA and Innovation for Change (I4C).

3.2.3.8. AGNA Peer Exchange: #MembershipMatters - 5 December

On 5 December 12 AGNA members led a peer exchange for member-based organisations, alliances and movements on membership topics, including member benefits, recruitment and retention, member databases and communications. Participants joined 2 sets of concurrent breakout sessions to share strategies and best practices about membership matters.

The workshop discussed issues related to managing diversity within the membership so to avoid the tensions that tend to rise and end up affecting the campaign for social change.

Following were the peer facilitators for the event:

- Association of Development Agencies – Jamaica
- Rendir Cuentas – Uruguay
- Hui E! - New Zealand
- Kepa – Tanzania
- Sinergía - Venezuela
- Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation - Latvia
- Non-Governmental Organisations' Information and Support Centre – Lithuania
- Asia Development Alliance (ADA) - India
- Confederación Colombiana de ONG - Colombia
- NCVO - UK
- Zambia Council For Social Development (ZCSD) - Zambia
- CODE-NGO - Philippines

3.2.3.9. ADA in TAP Steering Committee (2018-2019)

Results of the election of the 2018-2019 TAP Network Steering Committee. These results were independently reviewed and verified by representatives of the current Steering Committee, WFUNA and American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative.

Organizations from the "Global North":

- Namati
- Transparency International

Organizations from the "Global South":

- Asia Development Alliance (ADA)

- Human Rights First Rwanda Association (HRFRA)
- SDG Kenya Forum