



Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

BANGKOK, 15–17 NOVEMBER 2023

Open Call to Participate in the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

Bangkok and online, 15-17 November 2023

Information Note (20 September 2023)

Thank you for your interest in the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference and its preparatory CSO and Youth Forums.

This information note provides information and steps on how CSOs and youth-led organizations can apply to participate in the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) and the preparatory CSO and Youth Forums.

Background

Pursuant to ESCAP resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 and Commission on Population and Development decision 2022/101, ESCAP, in collaboration with UNFPA, is organizing the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference (7th APPC) from 15 to 17 November 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand and online.

The *2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development* notes “the important role of partnerships among key stakeholders, including Governments, community-based organizations, civil society the not-for-profit sector and the private sector, in implementing the Programme of Action and the key actions as well as their follow-up beyond 2014” (paragraph 88).

The *United Nations Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda* calls for “more inclusive multilateralism” (paragraph 121) stating that “it is essential for the United Nations to listen to, coordinate with and engage with civil society” (paragraph 121).

It is in this context that ESCAP and UNFPA are seeking the engagement with civil society organizations, community-based organizations, youth-led organizations and the private sector, primarily active at the regional level, to attend the 7th APPC. In addition, civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth-led organizations are encouraged to participate in the CSO and Youth Forums on 13 and 14 November, preceding the 7th APPC.

Objectives

- Ensure a whole-of-society approach to the 7th APPC
- Have strong CSO and youth engagement and participation at the 7th APPC
- Ensure a diverse range (representative of Asia and the Pacific) of CSOs and youth leaders attend the 7th APPC
- Facilitate a transparent and inclusive application process

Overview of CSO and youth engagement

[Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference](#), 15-17 November 2023, Bangkok and online

This will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online from 15 to 17 November 2023. It is organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, Asia-Pacific Regional Office (UNFPA, APRO).

The Conference will provide an opportunity to review the implementation of the [Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development](#) (APMD) and the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) in the region. It will focus on intersecting population and development considerations as they relate to sustainable development, both now and in the future.

On the first day of the APPC, CSOs will be allocated speaking slots under agenda item 2, following UN guidelines and time permitting. On the second day, CSO representatives, by invitation, will participate in the round-table discussions. During the Q&A of the round-table discussions, meeting participants, including CSOs, will be invited to pose questions or make short ad-hoc statements, time permitting.

[Youth and CSO Forums](#), 13-14 November 2023, Bangkok and online

Prior to the 7th APPC, a Youth Forum and a CSO Forum will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online on 13 and 14 November 2023. The CSO and Youth Forums are co-designed and implemented by a team of stakeholders led by the 7th APPC CSO Steering Committee (SC),¹ UNESCAP and UNFPA, APRO.

CSOs, including youth-led organizations, are integral to the implementation of the 2013 APMD, as well as the ICPD PoA and the ICPD+30 processes in Asia and the Pacific.

The goal of the forums is to facilitate meaningful participation of a diverse group of regional, subregional, national and local level CSOs and youth representatives that work on issues representing the breadth of the population and development agenda in Asia and the Pacific. Organizations that work with marginalized groups on these issues are welcome to attend.

¹ The CSO Steering Committee (SC) comprises Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Caram Asia, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), HelpAge, International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia Pacific (ICWAP), IPPF ESEAOR, IPPF SARO, Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition, Tsao Foundation, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), Y-Peer Asia Pacific, and YouthLEAD.

Application process

If CSOs are interested in attending the 7th APPC and/or the CSO and Youth Forums preceding it, they are requested to follow the steps listed below:

1. Complete the [online common application form](#). Please find a PDF version of the form on the [7th APPC Website](#). The deadline to submit the completed form is 5 October 2023 24.00 (midnight), BKK time.
2. If the application is approved, ESCAP will contact the applicants about next steps with regards to the registration process.

Organizations are required to complete only one form and nominate up to two representatives to attend the Youth and CSO Forums and/or the 7th APPC.

Selection considerations for the 7th APPC

While selecting CSOs to attend the 7th APPC, ESCAP and UNFPA will consider:

- A short statement of interest on why the organization wishes to participate in the 7th APPC.
- Accreditation: [ECOSOC](#) or other accreditation by UN entities.
- Prior engagement with the United Nations, in particular ESCAP, including in intergovernmental meetings and processes.
- Engagement in the 7th APPC CSO consultations.
- Representation of marginalized identities.
- Demonstrated relations to networks of CSOs or coordination capacity with other CSOs at the national, subregional or regional levels.

Additionally, ESCAP and UNFPA will aim to balance overall CSO participation according to:

- Subregional representation (according to the five ESCAP subregions, see: <https://www.unescap.org/subregional-office>)
- Gender
- Issue and thematic focus (all 11 priority areas of the 2013 APMD, and the new emerging areas; climate change, food and technology)
- Nature of CSO work
- Area of work (national, subregional and regional levels, with a focus on regional level activities)

Frequently asked questions:

- Is funding available for CSOs?
 - Yes. There is limited funding available to attend the CSO and Youth Forums and/or the 7th APPC. To be eligible, please submit the application form by 5 October 2023 24.00 (midnight), BKK time.
- My organization has already applied in Indico. Is that enough?

- No. Only applications submitted through the [Google Form](#) will be considered. Once an application has been approved, the organizers will contact the applicants and direct them to register in Indico.
- Who can apply to attend the Youth and CSO Forums and/or the 7th APPC?
 - CSOs and youth-led organizations which have been active in the region working on issues related to APMD and/or the ICPD PoA are invited to attend. The organizers encourage all potential applicants to review the selection considerations listed above.
- If my organization is not selected to attend the 7th APPC, is there any other way to engage?
 - Yes. The 7th APPC will be streamed live on YouTube.
 - CSOs working on population and development issues are also encouraged to consider submitting an [application](#) to organize a side event, regardless of having been accepted to the 7th APPC and/or Youth and CSO Forums.
- What documents are needed to submit an application?
 - Evidence or documentation of UN (Non ECOSOC) accreditation, if applicable.
 - Documentation of the organization's legal status in the country of registration, if possible.
- My organization does not have [ECOSOC accreditation](#), can I still apply?
 - Yes. ECOSOC and other accreditations are important. However, as outlined earlier, other factors will be considered.
- When will my organization be notified of selection to attend the CSO and Youth Forums and/or the 7th APPC?
 - Successful applicants will be notified on a rolling basis after 5 October 2023.
- Can my organization apply for the Forums (Youth and CSO) and the 7th APPC?
 - Yes, you can apply to all.
- Can my organization apply to attend both the CSO and the Youth Forum?
 - Yes, you can nominate one individual to attend the CSO Forum and one to attend the Youth Forum. Please note that individuals must be aged 30 years or younger to attend the Youth Forum.
- My organization has been selected, what are my next steps?
 - Submit a letter of credential, signed by the head of your organization. The letter (on an official letterhead or email) should include the following information:
 - Name, role in organization and contact information of CSO representative(s)
 - Anticipated role in Youth and CSO Forums and/or 7th APPC
 - Authorization that this representative can speak on behalf of the organization
 - Signature of official of the organization (and/or stamp)
 - Addressed to Social Development Division, ESCAP
 - Register on indico.

For more information please contact: escap-sdd@un.org and Mrinalini.dayal@un.org