

## **ASEAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE(ACSC)/ ASEAN PEOPLE'S FORUM (APF)**

### ***Background***

- ACSC/APF is an annual/ regular forum of CSOs in ASEAN Member States, which is held as a parallel meeting to the ASEAN Summit of Heads of State. The meeting is hosted by civil society in the country which it is being hosted
- Participants of this forum come from civil society organizations, NGOs, people's organizations, and people's movements.
- The ACSC/APF also features a forum through which participants can better understand the host country from the perspective of civil society.
- In this meeting, CSOs bring up broad issues from different sectors and concerns, such as human rights, development, trade, environment, youth, and culture, affecting many countries in the region.
- Initially, this forum was named as ACSC (the 1st ACSC in Malaysia - 2005), and adopted in the Philippines (2006) and Singapore (2007). The additional name APF was added during the IV ACSC (2009) in order to accommodate the different interpretation towards the term CSO and people's organizations from Thailand's CSOs. Since then, different titles have been used for the ACSC/APF forum in the subsequent meetings.
- The output from this meeting is a joint statement and recommendation for the ASEAN Leaders regarding the ASEAN Summit. A feature of the ACSC/APF is to open spaces for dialogue with ASEAN Leaders. Whether CSO representatives are able to meet with ASEAN Heads of State in the form of an Interface during the ACSC/APF depends upon the attitude of the government hosting the Summit and ACSC/APF. Nevertheless, the joint statements and recommendations are submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat and the government representatives.

### ***List of previous ACSC/APF meetings***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Host Country</b>	<b>Theme</b>
2005	Shah, Alam Malaysia	Building a Common Future Together
2006	Cebu, Philippines	Creating a Caring and Sharing Community - Enhancing People's Participation in Governance and Development"
2007	Singapore	Moving Forward – Building an ASEAN+ People's Agenda
2009	Bangkok, Thailand	<b>Advancing a Peoples' ASEAN: Continuing Dialogue</b>
2009	Cha-am, Thailand	<b>Advancing a Peoples' ASEAN: Continuing Dialogue</b>
2010	Hanoi, Viet Nam	Solidarity and Action for a People-Oriented ASEAN
2011	Jakarta, Indonesia	Claiming a People-Centered ASEAN for a Just Global Community
2012	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Transforming ASEAN into a People Centered Community
2012	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	<b>Making a Peoples-Center ASEAN a Reality</b>
2013	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam	ASEAN: Building Our Future Together
2014	Rangoon/Yangon, Myanmar	Advancing ASEAN Peoples' Solidarity Toward Sustainable Peace, Development, Justice and Democratisation

## ASEAN Civil Society 2015 – ACSC/APF National Organizing Committee (NOC)

### ***Thematic focuses ASCS/APF 2015***

- *Women*
- *Indigenous People*
- *LGBT*
- *Labour*
- *Children*

- *Disability*
- *Environment*
- *Youth/Student*
- *Migrants/Trafficking/Refugee*
- *Racism/Religion*
- *Urban Poor*
- *Agriculture /Fisheries*

- *Democracy and Elections*
- *Economics, Trade and Consumerism*
- *Freedom of Expression / Freedom of Information*
- *Corruption*

### ***Guiding Principles***

ACSC/APF NOC would have to abide and believe in these guiding principles below

- **HUMAN RIGHTS** – adhere to international human rights principles and standards as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights laws;
- **DEMOCRACY** – principle of democratic process to be respected;
- **GOOD GOVERNANCE** – to be participatory, consultative and have genuine engagement and dialogue;
- **RULE OF LAW** – to adhere to the rule of law;
- **NON-DISCRIMINATION** – to respect that everyone is equal irrespective of race, religion, sex, gender, social opinion and other status, etc;
- **NON-RETROGRESSIVE/PROGRESSIVE/EVOLUTIONARY** – not to regress in term of human rights and to be updated with current minimum standards; and
- **COMMITMENT TO SPREAD AWARENESS ON ASEAN-** socializing ASEAN to the constituents.

### ***Engagement Modality***

Endorsing groups will need to agree to this General Engagement Modality

- **'OPENING DOORS'** – providing a platform for more people to be involved.
- **PARTICIPATION** – to get as many groups and communities as genuine partners. This would involve getting people from grassroots community, Sabah and Sarawak and also groups who are not generally in the front line.
- **CONSULTATIVE/DIALOGUE** – inclusive engagement in the dialogue processes.
- **COALITION BUILDING** - as some of the members are part of different networks, there is an opportunity to build coalitions.
- **CONSENSUS** - in the spirit of democratic decision process we endeavor for consensus building and respect of ideas.
- **CITIZEN SPACES** – spaces for common people to voice their issues.
- **RESPECT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY** - to respect differences of opinions, representation of people/issues, openness to learn and to engage.
- **NON-VIOLENCE** – to rejection promotion of violence or incitement of hatred.