



**Bangkok Commitment on Human Rights Agenda**  
**Asia Pacific Conference on Human Rights 2023:**  
**Review of Bangkok and Vienna Declaration**  
**30 Years of the Bangkok NGO Declaration on Human Rights and**  
**the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993**

## **Statement of Common Concerns and Visions**

### **Acknowledgement:**

We, the Asia Pacific democratic and human rights activists and organizations have been tirelessly and valiantly working for the promotion, protection and implementation of human rights at the local, national, regional, and international levels. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights embarks on its 75th year in 2023, we salute all the human rights defenders, human rights experts, activists, institutions and mechanisms for their efforts in promoting and protecting human rights. We acknowledge that our generations are informed of the unfinished and necessary work of protecting and promoting human rights for all and we stand and support new waves of movement for human rights across the region.

In our continued advocacy for human rights, we stand with the peoples of Burma in their fight for democracy and human rights today. Their fight is our fight. Our rights are their rights.

### **Reaffirmation:**

As we reflect back on the long journey from Vienna, we reaffirm today, as in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, that the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community, and that all States must protect, respect and fulfill their obligation to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependence and inter-relatedness. **As human rights are of universal concern and are universal in value, the advocacy of human rights cannot be considered to be an encroachment upon national sovereignty.**

Facing the existential crisis of humanity and the earth today, we further affirm the indivisibility and inter-dependency of human rights with the integrity of all living beings.

## **Challenges:**

The future of Asia is ripened with hope as well as despair. Hope lies in the continuing struggle of peoples to defend fundamental human rights; and despair, as we are engulfed in continuing repressive and violent environments.

Many challenges lie ahead. But the crises we witness today are inter-connected, interdependent, and mutually reinforcing in an unprecedented way. It is a complex crisis made from unconstrained global inequality, political fragility and weakening democracy, increasing migration and demographic volatility, decline in national capacity to address grievances, persistent patriarchy and gender inequality, youth alienation, and above all, climate change and the global arms race. Moreover, the natural and national resources are being carelessly exploited by illegitimate business and corruption within the regimes across Asia-Pacific.

Human Rights are not only integral to human dignity, democracy, and development, but also to peace. The integrity of peace and human rights is our call and challenge for the future. The inter-relationship and inter-connection of human rights, democracy, development, and peace must be reaffirmed and put into practice. We call for the strongest attention to what impact the combined escalation of climate crisis, coup d'etat, militarization, and armed conflicts has had and will continue to have on human rights of everyone. This includes those marginalized such as ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, children and young people, disabled, elderly – among others.

## **Our commitment:**

To start the long journey of Vienna + 30, we commit to work together tirelessly and innovatively to address the following urgent concerns:

1. We shall continue our advocacy for human rights awareness for action, and promote training and education at all levels to ensure the creation of a culture of human rights and address the following urgent and emerging human rights issues:
  - Repression by authoritarian regimes, fascism and totalitarianism as well as heinous crimes, atrocities crimes and other international crimes committed in armed conflicts
  - Migration and displacement due to political persecution, conflict, terrorism, security, economic, human rights violations and climate concerns
  - Impact of the climate crises on the planet, and especially on vulnerable and socially excluded groups
  - the arms race and militarization of global and regional power relations, and the unabated development and spread of new lethal automated weapons

- Impact on the right to privacy of digitalization and collection of data on all dimensions of life; and the unchecked development and spread of AI technology in general and AI weaponization in particular
  - Lack of human-rights based security institutions; impunity and weak accountability for human rights violations, resulting in increasing threats and risks posed to human rights defenders and vulnerable and marginalized groups such as women, children, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, people of a lower socio-economic status and the LGBTQI+ community
  - Inadequate action on much needed reforms in national, regional and international human rights mechanisms
  - Transitional justice endeavors to heal the victims and communities who suffered from human rights violations in the past and accountability for international crimes
  - Effective and efficient Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights Defenders
  - Promoting meaningful youth engagement in advancing multi-stakeholder action and strengthening society participation in human rights, governance and democracy building.
2. We recognise international solidarity as a human right and demand effective action for human rights and democracy in Burma. Press freedom, accountability for the truth in the news for the international community in the right to know, access of media into and from the situation in civil-war-torn, catastrophic political situation in Burma is important.
  3. We also acknowledge the serious human rights violation against Palestinian people who are living under suffering situation. We support their continue struggle for survival, legitimate rights for independence, freedom and self-determination.

**Together, we, the Human Rights veterans/ advocates of the Vienna generation, commit to take meaningful action and will work with new, young and future generations of human rights advocates who are now playing the leading role. With the power of our collective voices and our unwavering determination, we will strive to reignite a global human rights movement that transcends borders and brings about lasting change for a more just and equitable world. ###**

**Through Transborder Solidarity, we can achieve our Ultimate Goal together.**

*June 30, 2023*

*Bangkok, Thailand*

## List of endorsers to the Statement

Asia Pacific Conference on Human Rights 2023: Bangkok – Vienna +30 Review  
28-30 June 2023 Bangkok, Thailand



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**Asia Pacific Conference on Human Rights 2023: Bangkok – Vienna +30 Review  
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@	Country	First Name	Family Name	Organization
1	Australia	Patrick	Earle	Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)
2	Australia	Clare	Sidoti	Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)
3	Bangladesh	Sharmin	Subrina	Association for Community Development (ACD)
4	Cambodia	Sok	Leang	Gender and Development Network (GADNet)
5	Cambodia	Vanda	Nay	Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC)
6	India	Guangchunliu	Gangmei	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
7	India	Ravi	Nair	South Asia Human Rights Documentation Center (SAHRDC)
8	India	Ashok	Kumar	National Confederation of Dalit and Adivasi Organisations (NACDAOR)
9	India	Rafeek	Ravuther	Centere for Indian Migrant Studies (CIMS)
10	Indonesia	Nukila	Evanty	Inisiaisi Masyarakat Adat (IMA); Women Working Group (WWG)
11	Indonesia	Adli	Hazmi	ProRights Foundation (Intern)
12	Malaysia	Arul Pakkash	Sinnappan	WITNESS
13	Malaysia	Edmund	Bon	Regional Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (RWGHRM), Malaysia
14	Malaysia	Sumitha Shaanthinni	Kishna	Our Journey; Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
15	Malaysia	Frederic	Wilson	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
16	Malaysia	Jerald	Joseph	Pusat Komus
17	Myanmar	Thinzar	Shunlei Yi	Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD)
18	Myanmar	Chael	Chael	
19	Nepal	Sushil	Pyakurel	Human Rights Advocacte; Former National Human Rights Commission of Nepal
20	Palestine	Zakaria	Odeh	The Civic Coalition for Human Rights / Jerusalem
21	Philippine	Cecilia	Jimenez-Damary	Human Rights Lawyer
22	Philippines/ Pakistan	William	Gois	Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
23	Philippines	Abigale Mae	Guevara	Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
24	Philippines	Antonio Moises	Villasor	ACFOD Philippines
25	Philippines	Amihan	Abueva	ChildRights Asia
26	Philippines	Anelyn	de Luna	ALTSEAN Burma
27	Philippines	Edeliza	Hernandez	Medical Action Group
28	Philippines	Paulynn	Sicam	Regional Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (RWGHRM)

29	Philippines	Maria Paula	Villarin	Regional Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights mechanism (RWGHRM)
30	Philippines/ Japan	Jefferson	Plantilla	Asia Pacific Human Rights Documentation Center (HURIGHTS OSAKA)
31	Philippines	Karen Dumpit	Gomez	Regional Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (RWGHRM), Philippines
32	Philippines	Ellene	Sana	Center for migrant advocacy
33	Republic of Korea	Kanh Hyob, Joseph	Shin	Jeju Peace Human Rights Institute WHAT
34	Republic of Korea	Francis Daehoon	LEE	PeaceMOMO - TEPI (Trans-Education for Peace Institute)
35	Singapore	Ted	Tan	Think Center
36	Singapore	Salbiah	Ahmad	Peace Advocate
37	Sri Lanka	Nimalka	Fernando	International Movement Against All Forms of Racial Discrimination (IMADR)
38	Sri Lanka	Velayudan	Jayachithra	Women's Centre
39	Sri Lanka	Ruki	Fernando	Human Rights Trainor
40	Sri Lanka	Lucille	Abeykoon	Human Rights Office
41	Thailand	Gawin	Chutima	Union for Civil Liberty (UCL)
42	Thailand	Nattawat	Krittayanawat	Pro Rights Foundation
43	Thailand	Ed	Legaspi	Human Rights Journalist
44	Thailand	Vitit	Muntarbhorn	Independent Human Rights Expert
45	Thailand	Gothom	Arya	Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD)
46	Thailand	Sriprapha	Petcharamesree	ProRights Foundation; Regional Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights mechanism (RWGHRM)
47	Thailand	Tanruthai	Thanrut	Young Women Movement
48	Thailand	Usa	Lerdsrisuntad	Association for the Promotion for the Status of Women (APSW)
49	Thailand	Suntharee	Saeng-ging	Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD); HOMENET Asia
50	Thailand	Laddawan	Tantivitayapitak	Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD); Union for Civil Liberty (UCL);
51	Thailand/	Boonthan	T. Verawongse	Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF); Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD) ; Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD)
52	Thailand	Kewalin	Sa-ngapet	
53	Thailand	Metha	Matkao	Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD)
54	Thailand	Victor	Karunan	People's Plan for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century (PP21)
55	Timor Leste	Fernando	Ximenes	Esperanza
56	Germany	Moritz	Kleine-Brockhoff	
57	USA	Phil	Robertson	Human Rights Watch (HRW), Asia

Update: July 17, 2023