



**Concept Note for
Asia Preparatory Meeting on UN Mechanisms and Procedures Relating to
Indigenous Peoples, 2024
3rd to 6th March 2024, Chaing Mai, Thailand.**

A. Background

The [Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact \(AIPP\)](#) has been acting as the main organizer and secretariat of the Asia annual preparatory meeting of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) for their engagement with United Nation (UN) mechanisms and procedures relating to Indigenous Peoples since the year 2000. The meeting is aimed towards developing joint advocacy strategy with an accompanying action plan for engagement in important UN Mechanisms, platforms, campaigns and processes/ procedures, identified as important, collectively by the Indigenous Peoples. This endeavor aims to ensure meaningful and effective engagement of IPs of Asia in their advocacy. This preparatory meeting concretizes common key issues, concerns on specific issues and come up with clear positioning and plan for engagement.

In the first few years, it dealt mainly with preparing for engagement with the [UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(UNPFII\)](#). In following years and with the establishment of new mechanisms and procedures, the preparatory meeting has expanded its scope to include the [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(EMRIP\)](#) and the [Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), as well as the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#). In recent years, the preparatory meeting has also included discussions on the [Universal Periodical Review \(UPR\)](#), the [Treaty Monitoring Bodies](#), particularly the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination](#), [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) and processes related to the [World Conference on Indigenous Peoples \(WCIP\)](#), Enhanced Participation of the Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations, [Business and Human Rights](#), [Indigenous Languages Decade \(2022-2032\)](#) and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). It has also included discussions and strategy building on [The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), [Commission on the Status of Women](#). This year, the Indigenous Peoples in Asia will also discuss in particular the [CEDAW GR-39 on the rights of Indigenous women and Girls](#).

With the increase in mechanisms and processes undertaken relating to the right of Indigenous Peoples, the need for Indigenous Peoples to be strategic in their engagement has also increased. While the Asia preparatory meeting has been invaluable to meet that end, it has also served to strengthen the cooperation among Indigenous Peoples' organizations in Asia, as well as in building their capacity for engaging at regional and international levels for awareness raising, lobby and advocacy.

In order for advocacy to be effective, IPs in Asia also acknowledge the importance of linking global advocacy to the local, national and regional level advocacy engagements. How effective our advocacy will be will depend on how well we link up all advocacy efforts at every level. Country level consultations, strategy workshops at different levels with IP Organisations constitute our foundational groundwork.



Acknowledging the importance of synchronized engagement at all levels, we will host EMRIP members, UNPFII Chair, NHRI representatives, regional and global partners and allies, political parties' representatives, academicians and donors in this year's Asia preparatory meeting.

Every year we ensure increased participation of indigenous women, youths, IPwDs and other intersectional group to increase participation in different advocacy activities and organizing networking initiatives and activities with key regional and global civil society actors, in addition to increasing the engagement of Indigenous Peoples with government by conducting dialogues with government agencies and institutions, the national human rights institutions, private sectors as well as the relevant United Nations agencies in target countries.

The Asia Preparatory meeting is open to indigenous representatives in Asia, and on a case-to-case basis, to other supporting organizations. Funds are often generated to support selected participants chosen per country through their inclusive, and collective processes. The meeting participants suggest the venue and country/host of the next meeting.

Like in past years, the Asia preparatory meeting this year will continue to focus on the UNPFII, the EMRIP, follow up to the WCIP Outcome Document, Enhanced Participation of IPs in the UN, Business and Human Rights, engagement with ASEAN mechanisms, the SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. International Decade of Indigenous Language (2022-2032), CEDAW, CEDAW GR-39, CSW and other treaty and charter-based bodies of relevance.

For 2024, the four-day Asia preparatory meeting includes a one-day consultation with EMRIP members and UNPFII members. There will be spaces for interaction with NHRI members, donors, global and regional partners and experts on different subject matters.

B. Objectives

The overall objectives of the Asia preparatory meeting 2024 are to discuss key issues and concerns of the Indigenous Peoples in the region and prepare common position/statements, engagement strategies and specific activities and plans for the forthcoming 2024 sessions of the UNPFII in April, the EMRIP and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July, as well as for the 13th Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, UPR, CEDAW, UNCRC, Enhanced participation of the IPs in the UN, engagement with Special Procedures, particularly the UNSRIP and various ASEAN meetings.

The specific objectives thus include:

1. To provide updates and discuss strategies and co-operation of Indigenous Peoples organizations on developments relating to the UN mechanisms particularly the UNPFII, the EMRIP, SDGs, the WCIP follow up, Enhanced participation, treaty bodies and charter-based monitoring mechanisms and the Business and Human Rights related processes.



2. To plan for the upcoming sessions and draw up common statements and identify side events and other engagement activities.
3. To conduct a consultation with members of EMRIP and UNPFII for better collaboration and engagement with the mechanisms.
4. To enable discussion and interactions with donors, members of NHRIs, subject matter experts and regional and global partners.

C. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the meetings are as follows:

1. Concrete plans for engaging with each of the UN Mechanisms and procedures relating to Indigenous Peoples and other mechanisms and processes.
2. Follow up information and country reports for submission to the various UN Mechanisms and procedures.
3. Concrete plans for active and effective engagements with EMRIP and UNPFII
4. Identified funding opportunities, opportunities of engagements with experts, global and regional partners, subject experts etc

D. Participants

Participants to this Asia preparatory meeting will be a mix of representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders (IPHRDs), particularly Indigenous Women Human Rights Defenders (IWHRDs), Indigenous youth, IPwDs, who are new to or have already been engaging in UN mechanisms and processes.

Members of EMRIP, UNPFII, various UN agencies, donor organizations, Indigenous Peoples support organizations and national human rights institutions, and indigenous rights experts will likewise be invited to the meeting.

Pending availability of funds, AIPP aims to fund representatives each from 14 countries in Asia. The total number of indigenous participants is expected to be at around 60, with effective representation of women, youth and persons with disabilities and other intersectional groups.

Preference for funding will be given to indigenous representatives or IPHRDs and particularly IWHRDs actively involved in advocacy for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in specific cases of human rights violations or particular policy processes at local and country levels.

Participants are expected to arrive by 2nd March and depart on or after 6th March.

Since there is limited funding for participants, it is encouraged for those interested to attend to explore funding from local donors, embassies, UN Agencies, and local NGOs and foundations.

E. Provisional Agenda and Country Reporting format: will be shared shortly

Note: Participants can schedule their country or individual meetings with the UNPFII and EMRIP members, global and regional partners, NHRI members and other experts