



## **ADA- 2024 Action Plan**

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## SUMMARY

For the year 2024, ADA proposes two annual projects rooted in transformative research, aligning with ADA's values, vision, and approach to capacity building and advocacy. Our emphasis this year is on the **Strategic Foresight Research Project**, with a focus on initiating sub-regional dialogues culminating in ADA's signature forum on SDG16 plus held in person. We also aim to explore the **Finance for Development** thematic sphere through collaboration with the Asia Development Bank. In pursuit of this project, ADA is constructing a knowledge pool comprising ongoing projects of public development banks in the Asia-Pacific region. This year we will actively contribute to policy papers and research projects in partnership with ADB.

In addition to these significant endeavors, ADA remains committed to engaging with civil society for partnership opportunities. In the realm of communication, ADA is dedicated to enhancing its digital presence and social media outreach, fostering frequent engagement with the existing audience. Furthermore, throughout the year, we will actively seek suitable proposals and apply for funding to support our initiatives. Detail description of the two projects are given below-

- Strategic Foresight Research Project action plan.
- Finance for Development action plan.

## • STRATEGIC FORESIGHT RESEARCH PROJECT

### • BACKGROUND

For the year 2024, ADA is proposing a research project on the future of global cooperation. This 12-month long project aims to reimagine global cooperation futures and inform the positioning of international actors in a post-2030 era (when the Sustainable Development Goals will expire). The project is particularly interested in understanding the changing landscape for Civil Society Organizations and actors in development cooperation in order to inform future-oriented strategic decision-making in the sector.

To do this, we turn to *strategic foresight*; a systematic way of looking beyond the present, exploring the future, and engaging directly with the unknown. This approach allows us to anticipate, prepare, and overcome the challenges of the future, while amplifying our ability to identify and seize new opportunities. Strategic foresight tools and processes are used to:

- *Develop three plausible futures for international cooperation and consider their implications;*
- *Raise awareness of strategic foresight tools among civil society actors engaged in global development cooperation; and*



- *Assess the utility of different tools and adopt a learning orientation by identifying and disseminating lessons on how civil society and other stakeholders can make use of strategic foresight methodologies.*

## ● ACTIVITIES

### ● THE SUB-REGIONAL DIALOGUES AND SDG 16 PLUS FORUM

Throughout the initiative, we will be working closely with International and Asian stakeholders to identify, understand and think about alternative futures in global/Asian cooperation. As part of this process, we plan to convene 4 sub-regional dialogues with groups of CSOs from South-East, South and West, Central and North East Asia to prompt discussions about the future and understand their perspectives on emerging trends, anticipated needs and priorities as well as their perceptions of where the future of cooperation is headed.

These dialogues will engage 15-20 Civil Society Organizations in each sub-region to reflect collectively on the future of global development cooperation. The dialogues will be 90-100 minutes long and will be organized in collaboration with Civil Society Networks and Strategic foresight practitioners working in the above-mentioned regions.

The outcome of these 4 subregional dialogue would feed into **the 4th SDG 16 Plus Forum** which will be hosted by ADA and its members in order to strategize the civil society move towards enabling an environment for the civil society.

**The 4th SDG 16 Plus Forum** will be a one day in-person event having approximately 20 out-stationed and approximately 15 local participants to be organized in Bangkok in May, 2024. The participants will be representing all the subregions of Asia and will be selected from the four virtual sub-regional forums on the basis of the inputs and leadership skills.

Looking at the strong advocacy that ADA has carried out at the national, regional and global level, and its ability to connect with the UN institutions and Asia-Pacific CSO mechanism, the CSOs voices will surely find a space in the official VNRs in 2024. ADA is already in the process of connecting with the CSOs in advance and providing support to national CSO platforms to write the CSO report on SDG 16 plus, and ADA made a strong headway in the form of advocating to create a working group on SDG 16 Plus and promoting Civic space in the civil 20 India one of the official engagement groups of G20 and published the [policy brief in the official C20 policy pack](#) and also created an [white paper on the same theme](#).

### ● WHY SDG 16 PLUS FOCUS?

No Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) can or should be evaluated or implemented in isolation from the others. As the core of the 2030 Agenda's Peaceful, Just and Inclusive pillar, SDG 16+ offers a catalytic



opportunity to fully realize the 2030 Agenda, as an integrated and mutually-reinforcing whole focused on advancing government accountability, building trust, and sustaining peace.

Consequently, in 2024 there is a lot of work to be done by a platform like ARGO and ADA, as the year is also marked as the mid-point of SDGs implementation. CSOs (especially human right activists) in the Mekong region and other South and southeast Asian countries are not formally organized under a national platform and will appreciate assistance with such organisation with continued shrinking civic space further barring active CSO actions in the region. Hence, our proposed country interventions in 2024 will be:

- Mekong Region - Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Timor Leste (Southeast Asia)
- Maldives, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan (South Asia)
- Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Japan, Taiwan (Central and North East Asia)

## • OBJECTIVES

1. To engage in sense-making strategic conversation about what might be of the future of the sector,
2. To reflect on current trends and how they may evolve to shape the work of civil society organizations in the region and globally,
3. To think collaboratively about signals of change, plausible challenges and opportunities for strategic innovation, with special focus on governance and accountability

## • EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the end of the events, participants would have gained knowledge and information on the followings:

1. Enhanced understanding of strategic foresight,
2. Better awareness of potential opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for the sector
3. Policy Development and Advocacy: development of more informed and inclusive policies that address issues such as human rights, governance, corruption, access to justice, and public participation.
4. Strengthened Accountability and Transparency: Collaborative efforts can lead to mechanisms that enhance government accountability and reduce corruption.
5. Increased Civic Participation: Collaboration could empower CSOs to engage with communities, encouraging citizens to participate in decision-making processes, monitor government activities, and contribute to policy formulation, thus promoting inclusivity and democratic governance.
6. Enhanced Access to Justice: better access to legal aid programs, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and reforms that improve citizens' access to justice.
7. Data Collection and Monitoring: improved data accuracy, availability, and use for evidence-based decision-making and use and recognition of citizen's generated data
8. Inclusive Governance Structures: improved decision-making processes, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and aspirations of diverse populations.



9. Awareness and Education: more awareness campaigns and educational initiatives that inform citizens about their rights, responsibilities, and the importance of SDG 16 objectives.
10. Knowledge Sharing and Learning: exchange of best practices, experiences, and lessons learned, leading to improved strategies and approaches for achieving SDG 16 plus targets.
11. Responsive and Agile Governance: fostering flexible governance structures that respond effectively to emerging global issues and changing societal needs, ensuring that policies remain relevant and adaptive.
12. Addressing Evolving Global Threats: Well coordinated responses to evolving global threats such as climate change, pandemics, cybercrimes, and migration challenges, leveraging the expertise of CSOs and governments to find effective solutions.
13. Policy Coherence and Integration: promotion of policy coherence across various sectors and development agendas, ensuring that different policy areas complement each other and lead to holistic and sustainable outcomes.
14. Promotion of Human Rights and Equity: continued to prioritize human rights, social justice, and equity, working towards a world where all individuals enjoy equal opportunities and protections.
15. Empowerment of Marginalized Communities: Enhanced focus on empowering marginalized and vulnerable communities, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their unique needs are addressed in development policies and programs.

## ● KEY OUTPUTS

- A reflection piece of policy document on the sessions will be produced and shared with participants, summarizing the discussion to capture regional priorities, visions and perspectives of the future of global cooperation.
- Two reports documenting the sub-regional meetings and SDG 16 Plus forum

## ● PARTICIPANTS

Civil Society Organization & development (UN institutions, multilateral development banks, private sector, government) actors working in the region

## ● FORMAT

- Sub Regional - Zoom Video Conferencing
- Regional (SDG 16 Plus Forum-Asia) - In-Person, Bangkok, Thailand

## ● THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY REGIONAL PARTNERS



ADA will partner with Civil Society Organizations Networks to facilitate one dialogue in each region between January-May- 2024. The partnering organization will help:

- Select & invite participating CSOs from their membership and beyond
- Validate the methodology with the Foresight Practitioner
- Determine an appropriate date and time for the dialogue to take place
- Help facilitate the conversations with participants (
- Provide opening & closing remarks (designated speakers are encouraged to welcome participants)

## ● TIMELINE

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Activities	Jan-Mar 24	April-June 24	July-Sep 24	Oct-Dec-24
Sub Regional Forums	South Asia			
	South-East Asia			
	Central Asia			
	NE Asia			
		Report Finalizations		
SDG 16 Plus Forum-Asia		May-24		
Policy Report on the basis of these events			Draft Report	Final Report
				Narrative Report Submission
				Financial Report Submission



## **FINANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN- 2024**

### **• INTRODUCTION**

In the year 2024 ADA proposes to employ the following comprehensive strategy, to enhance our collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and few other Public Development Banks in the Asia-Pacific region, contributing to sustainable development and positive social impact.

### **• ADB'S CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM**

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s 2024 Annual Meeting takes place in Georgia [Tbilisi 2024 | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](#) where Asia meets Europe, and ancient history connects seamlessly with modern civilization. It also takes place when the existential threat of climate change is taking on a renewed sense of urgency with heat records being broken around the world over the past year. Now, more than ever, economies in Asia and the Pacific must deepen cooperation within and beyond the region to collectively tackle the pressing challenges of our times.

2. Under the theme ***Bridge to the Future***, the Annual Meeting will explore how ADB can improve regional connectivity and promote climate action to deliver on its vision of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific for our future generations. Under the overall theme, ADB will focus on these areas:

- ***Low-carbon and smart connectivity*** – promoting cross-border infrastructure, trade integration, financial links, digital transformation, and regional public goods in a sustainable manner.
- ***Becoming Asia and the Pacific's climate bank*** – mobilizing climate financing to achieve “billions to trillions” and accelerating actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3. ADB welcomes the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in its annual meeting through the Civil Society Program (CSP), a venue for CSOs to dialogue with ADB and government leaders of its developing member countries on key development topics. Consistent with Strategy 2030, ADB's long-term strategy, ADB aims to strengthen collaboration with CSOs and commits to “*work with CSOs to tap their unique strengths, such as their local presence and specialized knowledge. It will explore opportunities to increase their involvement in the design and implementation of projects supported by ADB. Particular focus will be on operations that use grassroots participatory approaches to target the poor and vulnerable groups, mobilize women and young people, and monitor project activities and outputs. ADB will also seek their inputs and advice on the review of major ADB policies.*”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 108 on ‘Strengthening Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations’ of the [ADB's Strategy 2030](#) describes ADB's direction toward increasing engagement with CSOs in its operations.



## ● ACTION FRAMEWORK

Action	Timeline	Deliverables
<p>1. <b>Research / Mapping and Understand Development Banks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct thorough research to understand the structure, priorities, and ongoing projects of public development banks in the Asia-Pacific region. This knowledge will help tailor our approach and identify areas of alignment with the banks' objectives</li> </ul>	<p>The mapping part is almost done - <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18pU1kr_h2twK6rIDLALUNxhCjcDQJ4xF/edit?usp=sharing&amp;ouid=115188032954033730947&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18pU1kr_h2twK6rIDLALUNxhCjcDQJ4xF/edit?usp=sharing&amp;ouid=115188032954033730947&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true</a></p> <p>Research Study in Progress- to be completed by March- 2024  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tCrvqbg7EsKMRk3rIs8iUNA4ooya9A4pgULYNX59cg8/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tCrvqbg7EsKMRk3rIs8iUNA4ooya9A4pgULYNX59cg8/edit?usp=sharing</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDB Mapping in Asia-Pacific</li> <li>Research Report on Climate Finance and the Role of PDBs/IFIs</li> </ol>
<p>2. <b>Build Relationships:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish relationships with key personnel within the development banks,</li> </ul>	<p>In 2023, ADA had 4 meetings including 2 events with the ADB.</p> <p>We plan to have 4 events (GALA 24, HLPF Side Event, ADB General assembly, Tbilisi)</p>	<p>Event Reports</p>
<p>3. <b>Policy Advocacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in policy advocacy to influence the development banks' policies and practices.</li> <li>Provide constructive feedback on policies,</li> </ul>	<p>December - 24</p>	<p>2 Policy advocacy consultations between ADB and ADA members and Partners, based on ADA-Forus Report on Climate Finance</p> <p>Participate in the FICS , China and introduce the policy paper and organise a side event with Forus and members</p>





suggest improvements, and advocate for social and environmental considerations in project planning and implementation.		
<p>4. <b>Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We plan to organize</li> <li>● the capacity-building sessions, with ADB that align with the development banks' focus areas with avenues of CSOs partnership.</li> </ul>	April- 24	One capacity building workshop for ADA members and Partners
<p>5. <b>Participate in Safeguard Processes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Familiarise ADA members with the safeguard policies of development banks.</li> <li>● Engage in consultations related to environmental and social safeguards, ensuring that ADA contributes to the enhancement of safeguard policies and practices</li> </ul>	January- 24	Shared the <a href="#">draft policy</a> with ADA members and partners for their feedback before January-24
<p>6. <b>Apply for Funding and Grants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore funding opportunities provided</li> </ul>	Throughout the Year	Look for the suitable proposals and apply for funding



by development banks for civil society organizations. Many development banks have grant programs to support projects aligned with their development priorities.		
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