

**REGIONAL ADVOCACY CONSULTATION FOR A SOUTH ASIA HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISM  
23 – 24 June 2021**

**Virtual**

**MODERATOR'S GUIDE**

**Opening Remarks:**

**Aim of the panel:** To provide overview for the need of a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia and the role of FORUM-ASIA, its members and partners in the advocacy efforts and provide opening remarks for the two-day regional advocacy consultation.

**Time:** 10.15am-11.15am (Kathmandu time- GMT +5:45) 23 June 2021/ 11.30am to 12.30pm BKK

***(Panel format: The panel will be conducted as a question-and-answer panel discussion by the panel moderator. Panelists will not be asked to give opening remarks. The moderator will ask each panelist two questions in the order indicated below. Each panelist is kindly requested to limit their response to each question to 5 minutes. If time allows at the end of the session, the moderator may follow up on answers given and facilitate exchange between the panelists. Before the first question for each panelist, the moderator will introduce the panelist.)***

Introduction by moderator: We are privileged to have with us four panelists to unpack the vision of seeing South Asia establishing its own human rights mechanism. The aim of this session is provide an overview on why a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia is needed, and to explore the role of FORUM-ASIA, its members and partners in advocacy efforts.

<b>Time:</b>	<b>Panelist</b>	<b>Questions</b>
<b>5 minutes per question</b>	1) Subodh Raj Pyakurel, Vice-Chairperson, Provincial Planning Commission, Province 1, Nepal and Former Chairperson, FORUM-ASIA	Q1: A regional mechanism is a crucial constituent of the international human rights system as it is rooted in regional considerations like shared customs, values, and cultural

		<p>practices. Therefore, it strengthens the promotion and protection of human rights by becoming a bridge between international human rights standards and their implementation at the country-level. From your experience in the region, could you expand on this and tell us there is a need for a regional human rights mechanism?</p> <p>Q2: One of the aspirations for a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism is to see people protected from human rights violations by a regional mechanism when national mechanisms fall short. How do we advocate for regional buy-in for the establishment of such a mechanism?</p>
	<p>2) Henri Tiphagne, Executive Director – People’s Watch and Former Chairperson, FORUM-ASIA</p>	<p>Q1: People’s Watch is a long-cherished member of FORUM-ASIA. We would love to seek your thoughts on what FORUM-ASIA, along with members and civil society partners, should focus on when calling for the establishment of a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism?</p> <p>Q2: As FORUM-ASIA has revised its strategy and advocacy efforts, what do you think should be focused on it?</p>
	<p>3) Yu-Yun Wahyuningram, Commissioner, AICHR</p>	<p>Q1: As a Commissioner of AICHR with a background in civil society, what do you think are the lessons we could learn from AICHR to consider in the establishment of a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism? Please speak to the need for political will and the role of civil society in advocating for this establishment. Are there lessons to be learned from AICHR?</p> <p>Q2: Cross-border issues such as trafficking in persons, labour migration, terrorism, environmental degradation and repression of fundamental freedoms are some of the pertinent</p>

		issues in South Asia that necessitate the creation of a regional human rights mechanism. These are also the issues that AICHR has been tackling. Are there any lessons that you have learned in your time with AICHR that could serve as learning points for our efforts in establishing a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism?
	4) Dr. RinchenChoppel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)	Q1: As a member of UN CRC committee what would you think should be the most important aspect of a regional human rights mechanism to address the common human rights issues in South Asia, particularly where children are involved?