



## Regional Advocacy Consultation for a South Asian Human Rights Mechanism

Programme Agenda | Date: 23 – 25 June 2021

Day 1 - 23 June 2021	
Time (NPT)	Session
10:00-10:05 AM (5')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Introduction</b> Dr. Debendra Adhikari, South Asia Programme Manager, FORUM-ASIA</li> <li><b>Welcome note</b> Bijay Raj Gautam, Executive Director, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Nepal</li> </ul>
10:05-10:15 AM (10')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Inaugural address</b> Shamini Darshni Kaliemuthu, Executive Director, FORUM-ASIA</li> </ul>
10:15 -11.15 AM (60')	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subodh Raj Pyakurel, Vice-Chairperson, Provincial Planning Commission, Province 1, Nepal &amp; former Chairperson, FORUM-ASIA</li> <li>Henri Tiphagne, Executive Director, People's Watch &amp; former Chairperson, FORUM-ASIA</li> <li>Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights</li> <li>Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Member UN CRC Committee &amp; Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Shamini Darshni Kaliemuthu, Executive Director, FORUM-ASIA</i></p> <p>Release of "South Asia Human Rights Mechanism – Past Efforts &amp; Way Forward"</p>
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM (45')	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Panel 1: Role of Media, Academia and CSOs in advocating for a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanjoy Hazarika, International Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative</li> <li>Rakhi Sehgal, Trade union activist</li> <li>Prof. Geeta Pathak, Professor of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Kathmandu School of Law</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Sakuntala Kadirgramar, Executive Director, Law and Society Trust, Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Q &amp; A</p>

12:00 – 1:00 PM (60')	<p><b>Panel 2: Building collaboration, partnership, and synergies between UN bodies, NHRIs in advocating for a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bandana Rana, Member - UN CEDAW Committee</li> <li>• Dr. Mizanur Rahman, former Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh</li> <li>• Gauri Pradhan, former Spokesperson, National Human Rights Commission of Nepal</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Professor of Political Science, University of Dhaka &amp; Founding Chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)</i></p>
	Q & A
1:00-2:00 PM (60')	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2:00-3:00 PM (60')	<p><b>Group Work: Country level human rights situation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint analysis by members on existing <i>challenges</i> and <i>opportunities</i> in each of the countries</li> <li>• Each group to identify key challenges, opportunities on human rights issues and stakeholders, opportunities for advocacy towards regional human rights mechanism; and prepare a group presentation.</li> </ul>
3:00-4:00 PM (60')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Presentation (5' for each country)</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderators: Dr. Debendra Adhikari, South Asia Programme Manager FORUM – ASIA &amp; Rajavelu Karunanithi, South Asia Programme Associate, FORUM - ASIA</i></p>
	<b>Day 2 - 24 June 2021</b>
10:30- 10:45 AM (15')	<p><b>Recap of Main Takeaways from Day One</b></p> <p>Nischala Arjal, South Asia Programme Fellow, FORUM - ASIA</p>
10:45 - 11:45 AM (60')	<p><b>Panel discussion:</b></p> <p><i>Introspection of past efforts on advocacy of regional human rights mechanism in South Asia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subodh Raj Pyakurel, Vice-Chairperson, Provincial Planning Commission, Province 1, Nepal &amp; former Chairperson, FORUM-ASIA</li> <li>• Henri Tiphagne, Executive Director, People's Watch &amp; former Chairperson, FORUM-ASIA</li> <li>• Hina Jilani, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on HRDs</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Mukunda Kattel, Researcher, Policy Research Institute, Nepal</i></p>
	Q & A
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM (60')	<p><b>Group Discussion: Planning of regional and national level advocacy and strategy</b></p> <p>Each country level group to prepare stakeholder mapping; planning of regional and national level activities</p>
01:00 - 02:00 PM (60')	<b>Lunch Break</b>

02:00 - 03:00 PM (60')	<b><i>Group Presentation: Planning of regional and national level advocacy and strategy</i></b> (5' for each country) <i>Moderator: Dr. Debendra Adhikari, FORUM – ASIA</i>
03:30 - 04:30 PM (60')	<b><i>Discussion of outcome document and way forward</i></b> <i>Moderator: Rajavelu Karunanithi, FORUM – ASIA</i>
04.30 - 05:00 PM (30')	<b><i>Closing remarks</i></b> Dr. Suresh Dhakal, Treasurer, Executive Committee, FORUM-ASIA <b><i>Vote of thanks</i></b> Bijay Raj Gautam, Executive Director, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Nepal