

Key Messages of Local Authorities in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda at the Policy Meeting on PFD of the Asia-Pacific Region held in Bangkok on 23-25 June 2015

Whereas, Asian local authorities and their Associations and CSOs gathered in Bangkok from June 24 to 25 for the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Meeting of the Asia and Pacific region.

Whereas, local authorities had extensive interactions with CSOs at the Forum and expressed intention to strengthen collaboration towards the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Both actors have been engaged with EU through the Policy Dialogues to ensure the improvement of local development.

Acknowledging ongoing efforts made by the EC regarding the cooperation with local authorities and CSOs including the structured dialogue and the communication from the European Commission on empowering local authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes.

Conscious that development has caused inequalities of wealth, power and resources between cities, countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women.

Underlined the importance of strengthening local authorities in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda,

Now, therefore,

We call on the EU to assist the efforts being or to be made by local authorities and their associations towards the localization of Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda by stimulating the legislative reform and improving awareness amongst local leaders, officials and various stakeholders.

We urge the EU to support local authorities on improving their development effectiveness and accountability through promoting decentralization following the principles of subsidiarity including:

- Providing enabling environment for local authorities to improve their accountability, transparency, openness and participation with different stakeholders, including civil society and private sectors by strengthening their financial, managerial, technical institutional capacity.
- Supporting local authorities and their associations in establishing mechanisms for effective monitoring and evaluation of development with the use of digital-technological tools, and other means.
- Advocating amongst central governments and donors towards strengthening the financial capacity of local authorities by providing direct and adequate financial support to local authorities to perform their functions efficiently. Moreover, effective financial mechanisms should be made with proper evaluation for greater impact.

- Working together with local governments and their relevant partners to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and have justice and human rights in place.
- Showing sensitivity to and supporting women's empowerment and participation in policy development, implementation, and monitoring.
- Backing local authorities to have improved mechanisms and systems for effective, efficient and sustainable social services to their citizens.
- Capacitating the existing local authorities and their associations and at the same time assisting the establishment of local authority associations in the countries where they do not have yet.
- Enhancing the inter- and intra-regional cooperation, especially in the field of inclusive, ecological-based and human-centered planning and implementation, good and best practices, and municipal services.
- Cooperating with local authorities and their associations at the central, regional and global level towards the institutionalization of local governments' affairs in ASEAN and SAARC.