

Issue 3, 2019

# CPDE Newsletter

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## CSO platform CPDE leads Global Day of Action Against Shrinking Civic Spaces





# CPDE leads Global Day of Action Against Shrinking Civic Spaces

10 December 2019 — In partnership with 30 organisations around the world, the global CSO platform CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) has launched the Global Day of Action Against Shrinking Civic Spaces.

Under the theme 'Working Together to Defend Human Rights and Civic Space for a Just and Sustainable World,' the campaign aims to raise the awareness of different actors at national and global levels on the challenges faced by civil society organisations (CSOs) and encourage action to reverse the trend of shrinking civic spaces. It was planned in time for the International Human Rights Day, to establish that human rights are at the core of people-centered development.

Through the Global Day of Action, CPDE hopes to drive further support for the Belgrade Call to Action, which articulates the global civil society's demands to reverse the pattern of shrinking civic space and worsening attacks on human rights. Moreover, CPDE and its partner organisations seek the popularisation of the CSO role as vital, independent development actors in their own right and partners for development, and the recognition of the importance of civic space and democratic governance in human rights-based approach to development.

The Belgrade Call to Action asks United Nations Member States and other development stakeholders to act and reverse the closing and shrinking space for civil society, to stop the attacks on human rights defenders and refrain from undermining democratic participation, and to renew the prospects for an inclusive agenda 2030 and the full realisation of the SDGs.

Activities related to the CPDE Global Day of Action 2019 are published on these pages: Facebook: @CSOPartnerships, Twitter: @csopartnership\_, Instagram: @csopartnership, and YouTube: CSOPartnership. Participating organisations come from the following countries: Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Chad, El Salvador, Fiji, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Armenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, and Zimbabwe.#





# CPDE hosts session on inclusive development partnerships at Stockholm Civil Society Days 2019

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) and the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment held a joint session on inclusive development partnerships at the Stockholm Civil Society Days 2019, last November 19, 2019 at Valhallavägen 199, Stockholm, Sweden.

Dubbed Inclusive Development Partnerships amid Shrinking Civic Spaces: Can CSOs be both watchdogs and partners of governments?, the session aimed to demonstrate the importance of inclusive partnerships to achieve sustainable development, and how CSOs and other development actors can promote said partnerships in the context of shrinking and closing civic spaces and increasing attacks on human rights defenders around the world.

The event opened with an overview moderated by Task Team's Vanessa de Oliveira and CPDE Policy Coordinator Erin Palomares, and prominently featured a people's debate, where participants formulated and discussed their position on whether CSOs can be both watchdogs and partners of governments in development partnerships.

It was followed by a townhall discussion, where panelists tackled the role that CSOs play in development partnerships from their specific viewpoint, and members of the audience were engaged to exchange perspectives with the panelists. Panel members included CPDE Co-Chairs Beverly Longid of the International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL) and Marita Gonzalez of Confederacion General del Trabajo (CGT). CPDE Co-Chair Justin Kilcullen of Social Justice Ireland and CPDE Network Manager Jodel Dacara moderated the panel and the audience, respectively.

Capping the event was a Synthesis and Call to Action segment, which highlighted key insights from the debate and townhall discussion, presented the Belgrade Call to Action and Action Agenda to participants, and cited possible actions to address the issue of shrinking civic space, including signing the Belgrade Call to Action and Action Agenda. The segment was moderated by CPDE

Co-Chair Monica Novillo of Coordinadora de la Mujer, and Hans de Voogd of Task Team.

The event took place at the sidelines of the Stockholm Civil Society Days (SCSD), which this year focused on the 2030 Agenda and the core principle to Leave No One Behind.

Gathering CSO actors involved in Swedish international development cooperation, SCSD is co-organised by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and CONCORD Sweden, a platform of Swedish civil society organisations working towards sustainable development.#







In photos

# CPDE Global Day of Action 2019



01

## INDONESIA

INDIES Indonesia joined protest actions carrying the CPDE Global Day of Action messages to promote human rights and campaign against rising fascism and oppression of development workers, activists, and rights advocates.

02

## TONGA

The Civil Society Forum of Tonga marked the International Human Rights Day with a forum where people living with disabilities shared their concerns regarding civic participation.

03

## ARMENIA

The Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) – Armenia international fellows led a forum on various topics on human rights: Complications in Free Expression: The Case of Turkey; "Ethnic Minority Rights in Georgia, and Inmates' Rights in France and Armenia: Application, drawing parallels to current trends in Armenia as regards civil society space. CRRC-Armenia also held a public discussion on Current Challenges of Human Rights Advocates in Armenia on December 18.

04

## SRI LANKA

The Sri Lanka Nature Group led a solidarity action and human rights day commemoration with community representatives.





## KYRGYZSTAN

The Forum of Women's NGOs held a photo exhibit and conference on the situation of women's rights and human rights in the country.



## MOLDOVA

The Platform for Active Citizenship and Partnership for Human Rights (CAP) and the TDV Association urged MPs, employees of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, civil society representatives, and activists to promote the messages: Support the Belgrade Call to Action; Defend People's Rights; Activism is not a Crime; Reverse the Trend of Shrinking Civic Space; Stop the Attacks on Human Rights Defenders.



## NEPAL

Dignity Initiative held an interactive dialogue on the impact of shrinking civic space on the Dalit of Nepal.

## MEXICO

DECA, Equipo Pueblo, AC joined the global day of action against shrinking civic spaces, by holding an action and releasing a joint statement asserting the civil society's right to public participation, and calling on the state to create an enabling environment for the exercise of human rights. They also held a forum-debate at the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City to assess the situation, define their strategies, and demand a political dialogue with the government.



## INDIA

The Dalit Alliance, in partnership with other India-based CPDE members, organised Global Day of Action activities promoting human rights and defense of democracy and civic participation.





LEBANON

Lebanon Support released an infographic to shed light on the recent surge of protests in the country.

Protests of an unprecedented scale have been ongoing in Lebanon since October 2019. The infographic visualises the main socio-economic grievances of these protests, showing the role civil society can play in building a just and sustainable society, and in advocating for universal human rights including socio-economic rights.

Download the visual via:  
<http://bit.ly/WhatMobilisesLebanon>

# WHAT MOBILISES LEBANON

## Focus on socio-economic demands

Protests have been ongoing in Lebanon since October 17 2019. In an unprecedented geographic spread, largely motivated by demands to access socio-economic rights, which are part and parcel of human rights. This infographic visualises these demands, shedding light on the role of civil society actors in mobilising on these issues throughout the years, and in creating and framing rights-based demands and discourses.

Content Overview

Flaming Rights-based Demands

Protestations since October

ECONOMIC REFORMS

The Lebanese economic model is historically characterised by free reign to market forces. More recently, signs of economic liberalisation have been observed. However, authority measures and repressive legislation have reduced prevailing socio-economic inequalities.

Several workers groups (school teachers, daily workers, soldiers, and so on) have been protesting against increased authority measures, inflation, salary cuts in the past years, demanding the government to take the necessary policy reforms that would address the worsening economic conditions.

Protesters and activists have been organising marches and sit-ins in front of the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, and other public institutions, demanding the year financial and economic policies of successive governments and prevailing corruption in the country, and demanding the creation of a new and sound solutions. The current movement has also shed light on the youth's demand for increased education, reducing the ongoing brain drain, all the while denouncing the corruption linked to employment opportunities.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The education system in Lebanon is highly privatised. Public education is characterised by poor quality compared to private education leading many parents to enroll their children in private education.

Parents and students have long been protesting for affordable education, as education has been increasingly privatised. Recently, protests in front of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MHE) demanded higher wages for the Education Sector, notably incorrect educational results reported on MHE's website.

Protesters, including youth have been reiterating demands for free and affordable education. They have also highlighted the need for better quality education in the public system for all, and an updated, more modern education curriculum.

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In 2008, the Lebanese housing bubble of the real estate market has led to an exponential increase of property prices. This has resulted in 2014, allowing the housing bubble to burst, leading to a large number of people being evicted from their homes. This has led to further widening access to housing, whether by rental or by ownership. The situation has led to the creation of the National Housing Fund at the Central Bank, which has been struggling to provide affordable housing interest rates to housing loans.

Following the promulgation of the 2004 rent law, the government and municipalities have been struggling to implement and enforce it. In 2019, a few collectives led by youth groups have been protesting against the lack of affordable housing, and the government's failure to implement the law.

The social movement has been reiterating the need for a national housing policy, leading to the need for all, in the presence of adequate housing for all.

ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

The social protection landscape in Lebanon is highly fragmented and exclusionary. Among the most vulnerable and marginalised with little or no safety nets, with a high dependency on private, charity, and/or international humanitarian assistance. The private insurance and social protection systems in Lebanon largely rely on public funds.

While some civil society actors have been working to alleviate the population's most pressing needs by delivering social protection services, others have been advocating for longer term policy changes for universal and unified social security, access to affordable healthcare, pensions, unemployment compensation, etc. Other activist collectives and civil society actors have also been raising awareness on the impact of the crisis on the system.

Protesters and civil society actors in the current mobilisation have been raising demands for universal social protection rights, notably pensions. They also raised the responsibility of the labour law to include all workers and to protect employees.

GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Patriarchal laws embedded in the constitutional and constitutional system, as well as in the current legal framework, have been placing women in Lebanon in the position of second class citizens who are also vulnerable on the socio-economic level.

While women's rights organisations have been championing issues such as gender-related violence, sexual harassment, and activists have also been historically advocating for a unified personal status law, and reforming citizenship law granting women their rights in Lebanon citizens.

Women have been at the forefront of current protests, taking on the role of mobilising, leading marches, organising sit-ins, and demanding the government to take action on the issues. They have been demanding the government to take action on the issues, and have been demanding the government to take action on the issues.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

Lebanon lacks the provision of efficient and proper public services to its citizens. Since the end of the civil war in 2000, the state has been struggling to provide basic public services, such as electricity, water, and waste management. This has led to the creation of the National Electricity Company (NEC) and the National Water Company (NWC), which have been struggling to provide basic public services to its citizens.

Civil society groups and collectives have been working to improve the provision of public services, notably electricity, water, and waste management. They have been demanding the government to take action on the issues, and have been demanding the government to take action on the issues.

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ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION

Since the end of the civil war in 2000, the state has failed to pass and implement sustainable environmental policies and to preserve Lebanon's ecological leading to various issues related to water supply, waste management, pollution, quarrying, and the country's mountains, and deforestation among others.

In the past year, civil society actors and residents have advocated for the enactment of eco-friendly policies, all the while demanding the state to take action on the issues, and have been demanding the government to take action on the issues.

After the eruption of wildfires across the country on October 15, 2019, demands have continued around an increase in the state's readiness to cope with natural disasters (early equipment and training). Moreover, critics in front of the Beirut Dam and Damour Dam were staged by civil society actors against the development of privatised projects at the expense of the country's environment.

JUSTICE, ACCOUNTABILITY & FREEDOMS

The justice system in Lebanon is characterised by limited independence from political and sectarian affiliations, which has led to a lack of effective and unbiased recourse to justice, with articles criminalising corruption remaining largely not enforced. Also, while the Constitution guarantees the right of freedom of speech, establishment political parties and authorities have been using articles in the Penal Code criminalising defamation against public officials, national emblems, and the flag to silence public speech.

In recent years, civil society actors, independent journalists, activists, and citizens, urging the state to respect the freedom of association and expression, and demanding the removal of criminal sanctions for that. Defamation, and criticism of public officials and symbols.

Protesters have been organising sit-ins in front of Justice Palace, and courts, urging the state to respect the freedom of association and expression, and demanding the removal of criminal sanctions for that. Defamation, and criticism of public officials and symbols.

ACCESS & PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC SPACE

The privatisation of public spaces is yet another issue between the political and business spheres. Public spaces were increasingly privatised and sold off to private hands, such as the Beirut Doha Beirut private businesses.

Residents, activists and civil society actors have been protesting against the privatisation of public spaces, and the loss of public spaces, and the need for a more inclusive and democratic public space.

Protesters have been occupying public space and protesting, while demanding the government to take action on the issues, and have been demanding the government to take action on the issues.

Information architecture - design by Nabil Tabbakhian & Shadi Lutfi

CSOPartnershipCO  
for Development Effectiveness

06





## CPDE holds study conference on development cooperation in contexts of conflict and fragility

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) Working Group on Conflict and Fragility, in partnership with the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN), has organised a study conference on November 10 to 11, 2019 in Amman, Jordan.

Titled "Unpacking the 'triple nexus': Effective development cooperation in contexts of conflict and fragility," the event aimed to look at the relationship between humanitarian aid, structural development, and peace, and to develop the CPDE key messages on the nexus based on the experiences of its constituencies from around the world and across various sectors.

CPDE Working Group on Conflict and Fragility Co-Chair Razan Zuayter opened the program with a statement of the conference objectives. In her speech, she identified the primary challenges in peacebuilding, including the absence of political will and mechanisms to hold stakeholders accountable.

She adds, "The policies [in context of crises must] include the need to search for the root causes of wars, hold accountable direct and indirect warmakers, and link development with humanitarian relief not only to strengthen resilience but to demand an end to conflict and prevent it from occurring at all times."

CPDE Co-Chair Beverly Longid also affirmed this message in her keynote speech explaining that aid has yet to address the root causes of the condition that creates the need for humanitarian assistance.

"Aid must help resolve the root of conflict and fragility through relevant and people-centered development projects using a rights-based approach. We must assert that humanitarian aid should be used for the elimination of extreme poverty and vulnerability. We want to channel funds towards peacebuilding based on social justice, not war and militarism," she added.

The first panel session had speakers representing different global regions - West Asia and North Africa (speaking on conflict, occupation, and sieges), Pacific (climate crisis), Asia (refugee crisis), Africa (famine and war), and America (border crisis). This session discussed existing policies and strategies in relation to the conflict and crisis in their regions and the challenges therein.

The second session focused on the sectoral impacts of the different forms of crises with speakers from the Feminist, Indigenous, and Rural constituencies. This session tackled how current humanitarian, peace, and development cooperation policies and strategies respond to the needs of these marginalized groups, or exacerbate the effects of the crisis on them.

The closing saw the presentation of a conference communique, which contained key messages drawn from the exchanges throughout the study conference. The communique highlights the need to promote the triple nexus approach in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of people living in conflicted, fragile, and occupied settings while maintaining its integrity from states' security and geopolitical interests that could breed conflict.

The communique also emphasised the need for inclusion and meaningful participation of civil society organizations in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding processes and initiatives as a precondition to transparency and accountability of duty-bearers. It ends with a similar statement from the working group co-chairs' messages that addressing the root causes of the problem remains a vital step in finding solutions that promote a just and lasting peace and realise the right to development.

Capping the event was a symbolic pledge of support by the conference delegation to the APN's Million Trees Campaign (MTC) which aims to support Palestinian farmers in maintaining ownership of their land by replanting trees on Palestinian lands that were razed over the years by Israeli bulldozers.

The study conference took place in the Middle East and North Africa, home to several fragile and conflict-affected states. Nine out of the 10 largest recipients of international humanitarian assistance in 2016 are in the region. #





## ITUC releases publications on trade unions and SDGs

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), CPDE's focal point for the Labour sector, has published two important materials on the subject of trade unions and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2019 edition of A Trade Union Take on the SDGs compiles the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) that 17 trade unions in 14 countries have done of their respective government's plan on the national implementation of the SDGs.

The M&E covered the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Mongolia, Tanzania, and Venezuela.

ITUC has also released an advocacy brief on how trade unions' international cooperation programmes support the SDGs and the Development Effectiveness Agenda. The material presents examples of how trade union programmes contribute to the 2030 Agenda by drawing on the SDGs as well as the Development Effectiveness Principles.

The programmes addressed key sustainable development areas such as labour rights, social protection, gender equality, climate justice, business accountability, social dialogue, and industrial relations. In engaging in these domains, trade unions show commitment to their role as development actors at local, regional, and global levels.

Download links:  
<http://bit.ly/ITUConSDGs2019>  
[#](http://bit.ly/TUCooperation)

## BCSDN reports on enabling environment trends for civil society development

Based on the framework of the Monitoring Matrix for Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development, the BCSDN published a Regional Report on the trends in the enabling environment for civil society development in enlargement countries 2017/2018: "Growing Pressure on Civil Society and What to do About it?"

The report aims to fill the information gap regarding the developments in the civil society environment in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey during 2017 and 2018. The full Monitoring Matrix methodology will be implemented for the 2019 reporting period. The report also reflects the information submitted by BCSDN members (Partners Albania for Change and Development – Albania, Center for Promotion of Civil Society (CPCD) – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) – Kosovo, Macedonian Center for International Development (MCMS) – Macedonia, Center for Development of NGOs (CRNVO) – Montenegro, Civic Initiatives – Serbia, and Third Sector Foundation (TUSEV) – Turkey) participating in the third Monitoring Round within the Global Partnership for Effective Development

Cooperation (Indicator II). It is part of BCSDN's activities under the European Region Work Plan 2018 within the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE): "Grounding Effective Development Cooperation and Development Partnerships in People's Realities and Realisation of Their Rights" financially supported by the Swedish International Development Agency – Sida.

The Report has been prepared by BCSDN Policy and Advocacy Officers Anja Bosilkova-Antovska and Biljana Spasovska, with expert input by Tina Divjak from the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS).

See the report via [#](http://bit.ly/GrowingPressure)







# CPDE joins People's Assembly 2019, signs declaration

CPDE representatives participated in the People's Assembly organised by the Global Call To Action Against Poverty parallel to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit on September 24 to 25, 2019.

The assembly aimed to bring the "People's Voices" to the fore at the Summit, strategize to reclaim civil society space, discuss the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement and make recommendations for a stronger accountability mechanism, and strengthen the cooperation with various CSO networks for civil society actions and people's movement.

CPDE Co-Chair Beverly Longid spoke on the civic space for indigenous peoples, while CPDE Special Emissary for the Belgrade Call to Action Emele Duituturaga facilitated the plenary with people's representatives and representatives from UN and UN member states.

CPDE representatives highlighted the need to address the pattern of shrinking civic space, as stipulated under the Belgrade Call to Action. CPDE is one of 21 organisations behind the People's Assembly.

CPDE also joined thousands of people's movements and organisations, and millions of people across the globe in signing the People's Assembly Declaration, where they identified our world's most urgent challenges, and demanded world leaders to take action on four global priorities which affect every living creature on the planet:

Peace and Conflict, Climate and Environment, Inequality, and Decent Work and Discrimination.

"People all over the world, in every country, every day, suffer from the overlapping impacts of inequality, poverty, violence, discrimination, militarisation, environmental degradation and a shrinking of their rights.

We call on the Governments across the world to meet our demands with urgency and political determination. We call on Governments to meet and deliver on the global commitments made in 2015 in relation to the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, WPS Agenda (1325) and deliver on the 2030 Agenda. It is imperative that Governments address the interconnectedness of these agreements including agreements on financing," the statement read.

See full text of the declaration here:  
[#](http://bit.ly/PADeclaration2019)

*Photos of People's Assembly Protest  
and of Beverly Longid by Oli Henman  
and Action for Sustainable Development*





## CPDE Study Conference on Climate Finance gathers civil society reps, yields plans for CSO engagement

CPDE organised a study conference titled “Promoting the Effective Development Cooperation Agenda in Climate Finance” in Madrid last December 9 to 10, 2019, in time for the UN Framework on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP 25).

Through the event, which gathered representatives from various sectors and regions, CPDE sought to clarify its position on climate finance and identify its role and strategy in engaging civil society and other development actors on the subject. The conference yielded plans for engaging civil society to push the effective development cooperation agenda in climate finance.

Participants tackled opportunities and challenges in governing, delivering, and monitoring climate finance, noting how the delivery of climate funding is rife with issues especially regarding alignment with national development strategies.

Jahangir Masum, Executive Director of Coastal Development Partnership, identifies some of these challenges in his presentation: “The current international public adaptation finance flows are not sufficient to meet current needs, and the adaptation finance gap is likely to widen significantly over the coming years. Currently, there is no internationally agreed definition, rules or methodology for calculation, and inconsistencies and gaps exist in the current UNFCCC reporting framework for climate finance.”

He adds that there is lack of effort in mobilising the new and additional official development assistance (ODA) for climate finance, and instead too much attention on leveraging private climate finance, 90 percent of which usually targets mitigation activities.

Meanwhile, IBON International Climate Justice Program Officer Ivan Enrile pointed out the importance of applying effectiveness and human rights principles in climate finance: “A human rights-based approach is focused on putting people first, and making it known that climate change is primarily about human suffering and misery, not merely an abstract scientific phenomenon.”

He also highlighted the call of civil society organisations and people’s organisations from around the world to reclaim the climate agenda amid corporate plunder and repression, as articulated in a sign-on statement.

Part of the document read, “We demand that developed countries pay for their climate debt to developing countries by providing adequate, predictable, and additional finance for climate adaptation, mitigation, reparation for irreversible losses and damages suffered by communities in the global South because of climate change, and just transition in developing countries.”

Global public climate finance, they add, should be “distinguished from existing ODA flows and must focus on the most vulnerable, not only in reference to countries, but also local communities including indigenous peoples, farming communities, coastal communities, urban slums, fisher folk, rural women, children, and other marginalized groups in society.”

CPDE’s reference group on climate finance also noted that effective climate finance is guided by principles of policy coherence, ownership, transparency, and predictability, with particular emphasis on supporting the countries that will be most affected by climate change.

The full text of the statement may be accessed via <http://bit.ly/ReclaimClimateAgenda> .#





## CPDE Feminist Group advocates EDC principles, NOD commitments implementation in Beijing+25

Members of the CPDE Feminist Group participated in the regional meetings of global review of the implementation of the commitments in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, known as the Beijing+25 process.

Taking part in the CSO pre-meeting and intergovernmental meetings, Rosa Belen Agirregomezkorta, Centro de Estudios e Investigación sobre Mujeres of Spain, Nurgul Dzhanayeva of the Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, Patricia Blankson Akakpo of the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana, Monica Novillo of Coordinadora de Mujer in Bolivia, and Shanta Shrestha from the Beyond Beijing Committee in Nepal actively engaged in the planning and preparation processes based on the FG strategic plan.

Their participation in the processes contributed to the improvement of mechanisms for monitoring the Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD) Article 16, where States, development actors promised to allocate and track resources for women's rights and gender equality, strengthen capacity for gender-responsive budgeting and planning, and increase the participation of women's organisations in partnerships for development.

Members of the FG were able to use data from the GPEDC 3 MR, specifically data on indicator 8, data from FG own process of data collection and analysis, and additional data from the national governmental reports on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. They developed a set of recommendations, and used the Beijing+25 to raise awareness and an interest in the FG advocacy for the transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in the areas of women's rights and gender equality and investments to women's rights and gender equality agenda.

During the regional reviews, Nurgul Dzhanayeva made an intervention at the intergovernmental official session on smart investment and financing with key recommendations. She prepared an analysis on status of reporting on budget allocations for women's rights and gender equality agenda and led this thematic area and facilitated discussion and development by an ad hoc group on financing implementation of the BPFA in Geneva.

"In order to ensure an adequate and effective financing to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls," she said, "we advocate legal reforms to ensure that state makes obligatory, transparent and accountable budget allocations for effective implementation of commitments on women's rights and gender equality taken in the Beijing Platform for Action, and call to put in place mechanisms to systematically track allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the budget cycle and also to make these allocations public."#







## CPDE Asia conducts regional meeting, policy workshop on IFI engagement

CPDE Asia members gathered in Taipei, Taiwan last October 7 to 8, 2019 for a regional meeting and policy workshop on engaging international finance institutions (IFIs).

The event began with a multi-stakeholder dialogue with Vice President Jin-ho Song of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and some members of Taiwan's academe, on the subject of how mechanisms of IFIs and the private sector aid the shrinking and closing of civic spaces.

Participating CPDE members argued that many development projects funded by the private sector have led to human rights violations, land aggression, and conflict within the communities of the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable. They called for the private sector to be held accountable and to heed the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Moreover, they stressed that governments should foster an enabling environment for civil society and communities, where they can develop their capacities for empowerment, freely assert equal partnership, and engage all development actors to push for people-powered and rights-based approach to development.

Capping the day was the launch of the publication *Assessing Aid and Militarism in Asia* (see p. 9).

The dialogue was followed by panel sessions and workshop dubbed "Asserting Democratic Space amidst Corporate Capture of Development," where participants discussed country experiences on corporate capture of development, and sectoral experiences on the attacks on people's rights in order to draw lessons, develop recommendations, and reaffirm solidarity among CSOs in the region.

Kariyawasam Thilak of Sri Lanka Nature Group, Jennifer Guste of Council for People's Development and Governance, and Farida Abdylidaeva of Public Association The Right Step discussed the collusion of IFIs and governments to steer development toward profit-oriented projects mainly through neoliberal policy reforms.

Urantsooj Gombosuren of Centre for Human Rights and Development, for her part, talked about

another dimension of corporate capture - via manipulation of democratic institutions, thus, affecting peoples' rights. Meanwhile, Aid Watch Palestine's Abed Al-Salehi reported on the decreasing and securitization of aid in occupied Palestine and how this pushes communities to utmost poverty and marginalization. Finally, David Hesaie of Pacific Islands Association of NGOs shared how CSOs in Fiji still struggle to engage with their national government against the latter's lack of transparency and accountability.

CPDE sectoral representatives then discussed the corporate capture of development at the country-level, with Jenison Urikhimbam of Youth Forum for Protection of Human Rights, Kurniawan Sabar of Institute for National and Democracy Studies, Shanta Shrestha of Beyond Beijing Committee, and Rey Asis of Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants sharing their particular struggles such as violence against women and children, labor rights violations, land-grabbing, and forced displacement.

These struggles, the delegates argue, persist because the agenda of corporations and governments do not actually support peoples' rights. They called for accountability and reforms, and for duty-bearers to stop the attacks on peoples' rights and end the culture of impunity.

The delegates were tasked to create advocacy plans and policy recommendations on specific projects financed by three major IFIs: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and International Monetary Fund-World Bank (IMF-WB).

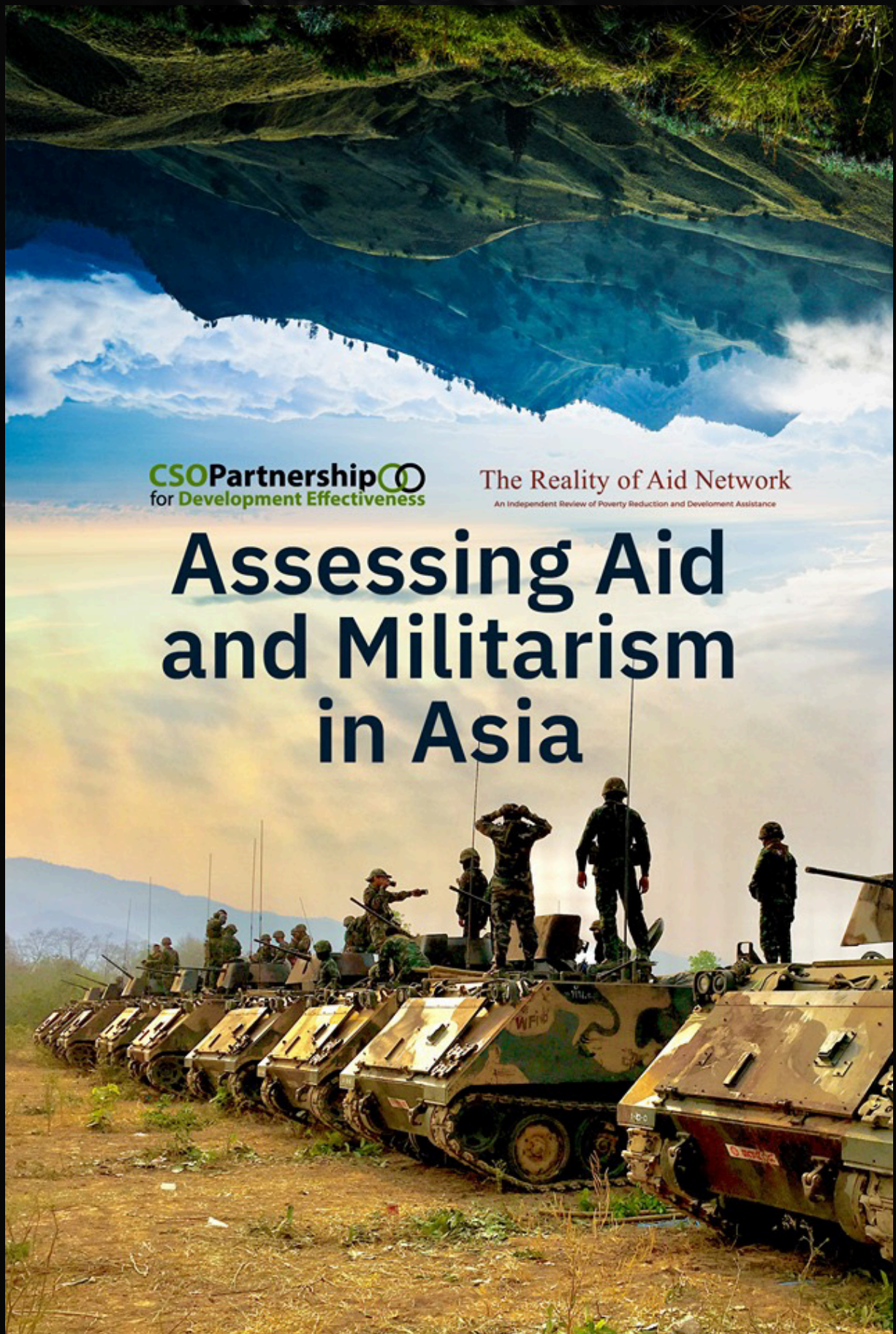
Jiten Yumnam of Center for Research and Advocacy Manipur provided the state of play of these IFIs to level off all delegates in the workings, projects, and impact of the three development banks. Delegates were grouped into ADB, AIIB, and IMF-WB. Each group listed the projects of the development bank assigned to them and planned opportunities of engagements accordingly.

Final copies of the advocacy campaigns and policy recommendations will be the basis of CPDE Asia engagements with IFIs for 2020. #



# New publication

CPDE and Reality of Aid published *Assessing Aid and Militarism in Asia*, a collection of research essays discussing country-level challenges along the themes of aid and militarism, development cooperation, and conflict and fragility.



Download via  
<http://bit.ly/AssessingAid>





# CPDE LAC members gather for regional meet

CPDE Latin America and the Caribbean successfully conducted their regional assembly last September 11 to 12, 2019, in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Through the meeting, CPDE LAC members aimed to exchange lessons on effective ways of engaging with other development cooperation actors, take stock of actions taken by the coordination body, elect new regional and sub-regional representatives; and plan for the 2019 to 2021 period.

The first day featured an activity, "Dialogue between multiple stakeholders in Effective Development Cooperation in Latin America", where attendees addressed issues such as the capture of the state and democracy, presented the results of a research study by Oxfam, financing for development in the 2030 Agenda and regional integration processes, and the role of public budgets and fair taxes to expand rights and ensure the reduction of inequality gaps.

The next day saw the election of new officers: Malena Famá as Regional Coordinator (Youth Sector, South Cone sub-region Argentina),

Georgina Muñoz Pavon (RECCNIC, CAMEX sub-region, Nicaragua ) as second delegate to the Coordination Committee and as alternates to Maryam Amsale Ze-Dingel, (Association of Development Agencies Jamaica Caribbean sub-region), and Camilo Molina (Cooperation Observatory of Ecuador, Andean sub-region, Ecuador). Members of the coordination body in the Southern Cone and CAMEX sub-regions were also elected: Cristina Prego (ANONG - Uruguay) and Pedro Bocca (ABONG - Brazil) from the first region and Laura Becerra (Equipo Pueblo - DECA, Mexico), and Rubén Quintanilla (Funsalprodes, El Salvador) of the Central America region and Mexico. The Caribbean and Andean sub-regions pledged to choose their coordinators soon.

Finally, the assembly established their priority work areas: South-South Cooperation, accountability of the Private Sector and development effectiveness, and developing actions in particular for the Caribbean region on countries in situations of conflict and fragility.#

## CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

CPDE or CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness is an open and global platform of civil society organisations (CSOs) working on and advocating for universalizing effective development cooperation (uEDC).

Through its advocacies and messages, CPDE brings together CSOs, as well as thematic groups and sectors, from different countries. At the moment, CPDE's membership covers seven (7) geographic regions and eight (8) sectors. Its work is guided by five (5) advocacy priorities complemented by working groups to provide policy expertise and lead advocacy engagement.

Know more about the CSO Partnership.



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