

DRAFT

UN-Civil Society Dialogue on Climate, Biodiversity & Gender

Concept Note

Background

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the single most important planning instrument and partnership compact at the country level. The five-year strategic framework articulates the UN Country Team's support to Thailand's commitments to advance the SDGs and deliver on the three outcomes: 1) creating an inclusive, green, and low-carbon economy; 2) strengthening human capital development with a focus on digitization; and 3) ensuring all people benefit from development free from discrimination and leaving no one behind. These outcomes hinge on strong partnerships and reinforce the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda to invest in deep listening to renew social contract, strengthen voices of the future generations, strengthen multilateralism, and protect the global commons and public goods.

To collectively deliver on the Cooperation Framework priorities, the UN Country Team is leveraging its convening power to coordinate strategic dialogues with key stakeholders including the government, private sector¹, and civil society.

In recognition of the crucial contribution by civil society actors as an indispensable enabler in advancing the SDGs, the UN institutionalized a formal dialogue that bring a wide range of civil society organizations together and provide safe space for engagement and support integrated rights-based development solutions that leave no one behind. These dialogues are in line with the UN Secretary General's (SG) Call to Action for Human Rights (C2A)², which identifies public participation and civic space as a key area for achieving the 2030 Agenda, as well as the UN Guidance Note on Protecting and Promoting Civic Space³. The first such dialogue was held in 2022, which brought together nearly 80 civil society representatives to discuss the draft NPO Act and the UNCT plans to build on this by convening regular UNCT-CSO dialogues to promote and protect civic space and build partnerships in delivering on the UNSDCF.

In 2023, UN-CSO dialogue will focus on the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, which have disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups including women and girls and those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. In a step to counter environmental crises, the UN General Assembly in July 2022 adopted resolution A/RES/76/300 on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment⁴. The resolution provides a unique opportunity to address environmental

¹ In practical terms, a Tripartite Committee governs the implementation of the framework through a Steering Group comprised of the MFA, NESDC and the UNRC. Concurrently, engagement with the private sector is institutionalized through the Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT), that supports the private sector to align their strategies with the ten principles of the UN Global Compact and assist in delivering the SDGs.

² <https://www.un.org/en/content/action-for-human-rights/index.shtml>

³ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/CivicSpace/UN_Guidance_Note.pdf

⁴ Link to Resolution A/RES/76/300: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3983329?ln=en>

challenges through a human rights-based approach to sustainable development. In this view, the dialogue on the issues of gender, youth, climate change, pollution and biodiversity challenges is timely as it provides space for collective voice and meaningful exchanges between civil society partners and the UN Country Team in Thailand.

Objectives: To provide a safe space for diverse civil society groups to engage meaningfully and constructively amongst themselves and with the UN Country Team on advancing solutions and contributing to accelerating SDGs and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, with a specific focus on women, girls and young people and those segments of the population in vulnerable situations.

Participants:

- Civil society organizations and groups working on diverse areas around gender, climate change, biodiversity, pollution, decarbonization, sustainable agriculture and human rights.
- UN Country Team in Thailand

Location: UN Conference Center

Plenary: Conference Room 4

Breakout groups: CR4, MR-A, MR-H

Date: Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 9.00 – 16.00

DRAFT Agenda	
UN-Civil Society Dialogue on Climate, Biodiversity & Gender*	
Tuesday, 18 July 2023	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration
9.30 – 9.40	Welcoming remarks (Venue: CR-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand
9.40 – 10.10	Introducing the adoption of Resolution A/RES/76/300 on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Romchat Wachirarattanakornkul, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR
10.10 – 10.40	Presentation of thematic overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society co-convenors from each of the breakout groups to present an overview of their respective themes, including opportunities and challenges
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee break

11.00 –12.00

Breakout Activity

**Three breakout groups will be convened in parallel sessions*

Breakout #1 – The Right to a Healthy Environment in Thailand – CSO perspectives (Venue: CR-4) [Simultaneous interpretation provided*]**

Civil society co-convenor: World Wildlife Fund Thailand-WWF as co-convenor

Co-facilitated by: OHCHR, UNEP and UN Women

- Role of CSOs in participating in decision-making in relation to the right to a healthy environment (rights to access information, public participation) with a particular focus on women, youth and those segments of the population in vulnerable situations.
- Access to justice and right to effective remedy in relation to the environment.
- Protection of HRDs, including WHRDs & EHRDs working on issues relating right to a healthy environment.
- Gendered impacts on environmental harm, and role of WHRDs as key actors in addressing the triple planetary crisis.
- Challenges and opportunities to move forward this agenda in Thailand

Breakout #2 – Community-driven natural resource management for an inclusive and biodiversity rich future (Venue: MR-A) [*Please note that this session will be conducted in Thai only*]

Civil society co-convenor: WWF Thailand

Co-facilitated by: UNDP

- Inclusion and participation of civil society in the drafting and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP).
- Challenges and opportunities for the enabling of more effectively implementation of biodiversity policy and plans by civil society and relevant stakeholders.
- Integration of a Human Rights-based approach throughout the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- The role of IPs and local communities in biodiversity conservation

Breakout #3 – Sustainable food systems (Venue: MR-H) [*Please note that this session will be conducted in Thai only*]

Civil society co-convenor: Thai Health Promotion Foundation

Co-facilitated by: FAO, ITC, WHO, UNDP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges (pain points) in the food system and how to address such challenges • Main achievements to ensure sustainable food system in Thailand • The most important actions to take to advance sustainable food system in Thailand. • The current state of NGOs/CSOs collaboration and network tackling food systems challenges in Thailand taking into account institutional and knowledge barriers
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.30	<u>Breakout Activity (Continued)</u> (<i>Locations: CR4, MR-A, MR-H</i>)
14.30 – 14.45	Coffee break
14.45 – 15.20	<p>Plenary discussion (<i>40 mins</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society co-convenors from each group to summarize and frame findings from breakout groups - UN representatives to provide three reflections for UN considerations <p><i>10 minutes for each group (5 mins for co-convenor, 5 mins for Agency representative)</i></p>
15.20 – 15.40	Responses and comments by UN Heads of Agencies (<i>20 mins</i>)
15.40 – 15.50	Closing

* Simultaneous interpretation (Thai and English) will be provided during the plenary sessions and Breakout session #1.