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Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum (UBDF) 2019

Regional Consultation on Promoting Democracy, Human Rights and Peace through SDG 16+: Towards Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies in Asia

Holiday Inn, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 26-28 February 2019

Concept Note (as of 19 February 2019)

1. The **Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum (UBDF) 2019** is building on the Busan Democracy Forum (BuDF) held in Busan, South Korea on 22-24 January 2018 under the theme “Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies in Asia and beyond”. It is the second joint initiative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies (PSCD), Asia Democracy Network (ADN), and Asia Development Alliance (ADA) in partnership with the government of the Republic of Korea.
2. The UBDF 2019 is hosted by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) in Mongolia in partnership with the Mongolian government and National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia. The Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) will be a focal point for the LOC. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful Justice and Inclusive Societies will also join the UBDF as a partner organization.
3. The UBDF 2019 is a regional consultation under the theme “Promoting Democracy, Human Rights and Peace through SDG 16+ : Towards Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies in Asia and Beyond”. The SDG 16+ indicates that SDG 16 is a stand-alone goal itself but need to be implemented as an integral part of the SDGs in connection with other goals in particular cross-cutting goals.
4. The UBDF 2019 taking place in Mongolia is significant because the Mongolian government held the presidency of the Community of Democracies from 2015-2016. It was also during the Ministerial Meeting in June 2015 that the concept of creating a civil society network to promote democracy in Asia was conceived, which later led to the establishment of the Asia Democracy Network (AND). Mongolia has been a strong promoter of SDG 16, as the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 9 on ‘Strengthening Human Rights and Fostering Democratic Governance’ was first adopted by the Mongolian government in 2005.
5. The main objectives of the UBDF 2019 are i) to review and share best practices of Asian governments, UN organizations and CSOs engaged in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in particular the SDG16+, ii) to strengthen collaboration and partnerships among multi-stakeholders such as Governments, international organizations, public institutions, CSOs, private sector, etc. on SDG16+, iii) to develop a series of Action Plans in preparation for the UN Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD, Bangkok, 27-29 March 2019), the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF, New York, 9-15 July 2019) and the SDGs Summit during the UN General Assembly (24-25 September 2019) with focuses on SDG16+.
6. The UBDF will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 26-28 February 2019 (Tuesday through Thursday). About 60-80 participants including 20-30 local

participants from Mongolia are expected to attend the Forum. The working language will be in English and simultaneous translation for English-Mongolian will be provided.

7. The Forum is open to any government, CSOs and other stake-holders in Asia who are interested in the theme and topics of the Forum. However, due to financial constraints, priority will be given to participants from the countries that have been substantively working or are willing to work on SDG16.
8. Prior to the UBDF 2019, on 24-25 February 2019, there will be a national capacity-building programme entitled “Glo-cal Advocacy Leadership Academy” (GALA) for local participants from Mongolia. Following the UBDF 2019, there will be a meeting of the ADA Steering Committee members on 28 February 2018, and an ADA Taskforce Meeting on the Monitoring report of SDG 16 on 29 February 2018.

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Annex:

- Busan Declaration on SDG 16+ (January 2018)