



INDO-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Role of Civil Society Organisations in the Indo-Pacific

Wednesday, October 9th, 2024

Virtual

1700- 1800 (IST) | 2130-2230 (AEST) | 1430-1530 (EAT)

Background and Context

The Indo-Pacific region has emerged as a central focus in global geopolitics, underlined by its strategic significance in terms of security, economy, and demographics. While government-to-government cooperation has intensified in areas such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and climate initiatives, the engagement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) remains crucial to addressing pressing regional challenges. They act as essential bridges between communities and policy-makers, especially in the face of climate change, maritime security, and sustainable trade challenges. This webinar seeks to underline the pivotal role of CSOs in shaping the Indo-Pacific's future through collective action and multilateral collaboration.

Objectives

- Explore the essential role in fostering sustainable development, promoting security, and addressing climate change.
- Discuss the opportunities and challenges faced in the region, particularly in building networks and partnerships with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.
- Highlight best practices for enhancing involvement in key areas such as climate adaptation, maritime governance, and sustainable trade.
- Identify concrete steps for strengthening the capacity and impact through collaboration, capacity building, and resource pooling.

Expected Outcomes

- Strategic insights into how CSOs can effectively contribute to climate mitigation, maritime security, and sustainable trade.
- Recommendations for capacity building and resource sharing to enable CSOs to play a more effective role in regional policy discussions.

Agenda

- The pivotal role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in addressing climate, security, and trade challenges in the Indo-Pacific.
 - CSO involvement in climate mitigation and adaptation, with case studies on successful CSO-government collaborations and participation in agreements like the Paris Agreement.
 - The growing importance of sustainable trade in the Indo-Pacific, including CSO efforts in advancing global trade agreements and addressing issues such as MSMEs, labour Standards, and gender equity.
 - Strengthening CSO networks, capacity building, and cross-border knowledge sharing.
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Programme

1700-1702 - Introduction and Welcome Remarks: A representative from CUTS International will set the stage for the discussion, providing an overview of the webinar's objectives and significance.

1702-1707 – Moderators Note

1707-1745 - Panel Discussion: Experts from various fields will share their insights and perspectives on the topics discussed.

1745-1756 - Q&A Session: An interactive segment allowing participants to engage directly with the panellists, ask questions, and discuss the topics in more detail.

1756-1800 - Closing Remarks by the Moderator: Summarising the key takeaways from the webinar and outlining the next steps for enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organisations in the Indo-Pacific Region.
