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Regional Mechanism(s) for Human Rights Protection in Asia and the Pacific: Contextuality, Actuality, Opportunity

*Paper on the occasion of the Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue for Human Rights 75
to be held on 11 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand*

The Asia-Pacific region is a vast conglomeration of large and small countries with a wealth of inter-generational wisdom. Yet, the region does not have a regional inter-governmental human rights protection system. What then are some possibilities for the future? The response is shaped by the context of the region itself ("contextuality"), with actual, constructive developments on some fronts ("actuality"), inviting prospects based on opportunities for the future ("opportunity").

Contextuality:

The variety of countries in the region with a diversity of socio-cultural, economic and political situations is living proof of why it is difficult to have a system at the macroscopic level. Yet, there is potentially a will and a way to identify some convergences in this regard.

The word "regional" is both open ended and open minded. It does not necessarily mean the macroscopic Asia-Pacific region but can be more moderate, covering the sub-regional and even a network of national entities and activities. Meanwhile, the term "mechanism(s)" offers the possibility of different bodies, ranging between commissions to committees, other entities of a non-judicial or quasi-judicial kind, and at times the Courts. The term "protection", in practice, is premised on various guardrails for implementation, such as transparent monitoring, situational assessment with access to the field, fact finding, investigations, offering a sheltering umbrella to those who defend human rights, receiving communications from persons and communities seeking redress for harm, and access to justice and remedies ("remediation") to enable fair play with a sense of responsibility/accountability. These are paralleled by inter-sectoral and inter-country cooperation.

There are encouraging signs encircling that perspective. First, all Asia-Pacific countries are parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, followed by a majority as members of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The current state of ratifications of key international Human Rights Conventions can be seen in Table 1.

Second, almost all countries are parties to the Paris Accord on Climate Change, emanating from the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change, together with other key agreements on environmental protection. This is also visible in Table 1. From the human rights angle, the motivation is to address not only matters of risk mitigation and adaptation but also to ensure channels for redress and justice for affected persons and parties, complemented by respect for advocates of human rights, such as human rights defenders. Because there is a close relationship between the State, communities and the business sector, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are especially relevant to this tripartite interaction, and the call for due diligence from the business sector.

Third, stocktaking of the various reservations and interpretative declarations to the human rights treaties is needed, with the encouragement to withdraw them, to ensure comprehensive compliance. By contrast, a welcome development is that all countries have participated in various mechanisms in the UN Human Rights Council, especially the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and they have accepted many recommendations for promised improvements.

Fourth, there has been comprehensive "buy-in" of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which benefit from the human rights layer undergirding their implementation, with consistent monitoring from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), a branch of the UN's Economic and Social Council.

Fifth, various countries have opened a welcome door to cooperate with the UN system with bearing on human rights. This ranges from cooperation with various UN Special Procedures, such as UN Special Rapporteurs, to the presence of various UN offices in the region at the sub-regional level or at the country level. The latter can vary from the presence of human rights advisers to specific offices, such as that of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with increased consciousness among UN country teams (UNCT) and Resident Coordinators (RC) in relation to human rights monitoring and advocacy.

Sixth, the UN has already provided guidance on the preferred mechanics of a regional mechanism, as guided by the OHCHR, which also relates to the sub-regional. The mechanism should do both promotion and protection work.

Actuality:

Stocktaking of the region reveals at least five portals for identifying developments; most are at the sub-regional level, rather than at the regional level. First, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Second, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Third, in West Asia, the Arab Human Rights Charter. Fourth, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the slightly larger Pacific Community (previously South Pacific Commission). Fifth, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) and related networks.

Under the first four portals above, the establishment of mechanism(s) for human rights protection in the Asia Pacific region has been initiated through regional or sub-regional organizations of a political, economic and or cultural kind rather than a regional or sub-regional organization focusing on human rights. In fact, there is no regional or sub-regional organization in the Asia-Pacific region established specifically to promote and protect human rights, unlike, for example, the Council of Europe which was the progenitor of the European intergovernmental human rights protection system. The latter is based on a founding Convention and it is accompanied by a regional Human Rights Court, with a communications channel for individual complainants, enforceable judgements and remedies (such as compensation), backed by a Committee of Ministers.

Most mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region, as seen below, are more concerned with human rights promotion, such as through dialogues, education and expounding or espousing human rights through regional documents/instruments, rather human rights protection. All of them are based on a step-by-step approach, incremental in progression and subject to the political physiognomy interfacing with them.

The ASEAN setting is the most evolved. It is a blend of ten countries at different stages of the path towards democracy. Pursuant to the ASEAN Charter, its capstone, it established the ASEAN

Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). There are also two companion sectoral bodies: the ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children and the ASEAN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers. In the initial phase, AICHR underlined the need to work on the basis of consensus. It was not set up by a regional human rights treaty but was a consequence of a political treaty. After AICHR was established, it formulated the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights, as a "soft law" to guide the human rights approach in the region. From the beginning, there have been more actions on promotion than protection; the mechanism has organized multiple meetings and dialogues, with many verbal commitments, such as Declarations and Action Plans, as well as capacity building.

Gradually, AICHR has progressed towards more human rights protection at the sub-regional level. Importantly, as a good practice, through its Work Plan, it now receives communications from affected parties who seek remedies. The procedure is low key and dependent upon the efforts of each representative. Where a complaint is lodged with the ASEAN secretariat, it is channeled to the representative of the member country in question. The latter is then able to cross refer it to the national human rights institution if it exists in the country or an equivalent where there is no such institution. The process is informal, and the results are not revealed (unless the representative chooses to do so). On another front, the various youth debates organized by AICHR have opened the door to youth participation and the discussion of issues which adults sometimes forget or avoid!

There are new possibilities for interlinking ASEAN with other continents. There are opportunities to cross-link with the African and Inter-American regional human rights systems which are anchored on regional human rights treaties, coupled with regional Commissions and Human Rights Courts, accompanied by channels for individual communications and enforceable judgements with remedies. Interestingly, parallel to AICHR, national human rights commissions now exist in five of its ten member countries, and at times, they have cooperated on trans-frontier issues, such as protection of children and the environment. Southeast Asian countries have also set up the Southeast Asian Network of National Human Rights Institutions (SEANF), now extended to a neighbouring country, an ASEAN member-in-waiting. A constructive development is that now AICHR is meeting SEANF more consistently, offering a partial link between the first and fifth portals above.

The SAARC region is a very populous region with some challenging situations nearby. To date, the entry point for human rights development at the SAARC level has been various human rights treaties and declarations of a cooperative kind. There is a Convention to counter the trafficking of women and children, and a Convention on child welfare arrangements. There is a Social Charter to complement the SDGs and an environmental treaty. The approach is based on human rights promotion, while awaiting substantively human rights protection as its potential other arm.

Parallel to this, some SAARC countries have strong national human rights commissions as well as other mechanisms, such as active Courts, which provide a check and balance to ensure human rights protection on various fronts at the national level. For example, as a good practice, the proactive nature of the Supreme Court of a key country has been recognized on a number of issues including on child labour and environmental protection. Meanwhile, there are constructive lessons from the way that one of the National Commissions on Human Rights, together with the State Commissions, has managed to clear a huge caseload of complaints offering hope to remedy grievances.

In West Asia, there is the Arab system which straddles that sub-region and north Africa. This consists of the Arab Charter on Human Rights with a back-up Committee to monitor

implementation by States. There is also a political arm nearby in the form of the Arab League. More recently, there has been an initiative to establish an Arab Human Rights Court. There are substantive and procedural considerations. The said Committee and the proposed Court do not provide for channels to receive complaints directly from individuals seeking redress. Complementary to this, there has been a growth of national human rights commissions in the region which provide for gradual, increased exposure to human rights issues as well as advocacy from improved protection.

The PIF is an organization which harbours a range of large and small island nations. An offshoot of its work has been to support a human rights agenda and mechanisms on human rights. While there is still no mechanism at the sub-regional level, there are national human rights commissions in the region with a role to promote and protect human rights.

Parallel to this, under the auspices of the Pacific Community, the biggest Pacific Regional Forum on [National Human Rights Institutions](#) was held in February 2023, and there was common agreement on the importance of developing such institutions in the region, with emphasis on accessibility. There is also possibility for a future Human Rights Declaration from this sub-region, while being supportive of the burgeoning of national protection systems, if not a sub-regional protection system.

Last but not least, there is the network of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) interlinked by the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF). The APF has been instrumental in supporting the setting up and capacity building of many national institutions in the form of commissions and ombudspersons in the Asia-Pacific region, and the numbers have grown impressively to over 25 national institutions as part of the network. There is connectivity with the global network of NHRIs - the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. These mechanisms are to abide by the Paris Principles on NHRIs and the crux is to ensure that the institutions and their members are independent from the executive branch at the national level, to be pluralistic in composition, and to be effective in implementation.

There is a key mandate of these NHRIs not only to promote but also to protect human rights. The latter involves the various components identified above as constituents of a protection role, including investigations and reception of complaints/communications from affected parties, coupled with the advocacy for and provision of redress. At the field level, visits to prisons and other closed or semi-closed institutions where people are held or detained have been a good practice on the part of many of these institutions which should be maximized.

There has also been a key role of the UN in recent decades attesting to the commitment to ensure that there is no protection deficit in the region, even though the realities are often otherwise. Since the beginning of this century, sub regional offices of OHCHR have been set up and are operating from Bangkok, Beirut, Bishkek and Suva. There are various national offices, units and advisers. Some are attached to peacekeeping operations. Often, they offer an indirect protection role in that they act as a conduit for complaints and grievances to be activated, especially in Geneva, particularly where the national, sub-regional and or regional levels are unable or unwilling to act.

Opportunity:

2023 is the year of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna with the ensuing catalytic Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which also paved the way for more regional and



national human rights mechanisms. There will be the SDG summit in 2023 and the Summit for the Future in 2024, propelled by the UN Call to Action and the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda. Coupled with the key role of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR and the rest of the UN family, there is an opportunity for more actions to promote and protect human rights through the regional lens, in concert with rights-holders and other stakeholders. The region is also challenged by the tide of newer issues deserving attention, including more extreme environment-related disasters, digitalization and artificial intelligence.

While the door is open to encourage a regional human rights system for Asia and the Pacific in the wider panorama, the following **“Human Rights – Progressive Pathways” (HR-PP)**, with perhaps a 5-year timeframe for operationalization and a longitudinal perspective, can help to lay down the stepping stones towards a human rights-based ecosystem and grounded human rights architecture, complemented by the spirit of cooperation for the protection and promotion of human rights:

- Encourage ratification of/accession to the full range of human treaties and withdrawal of reservations to these instruments, and follow-up and follow-through the recommendations from the various international human rights bodies, as well as the UPR;
- Implement effectively and holistically civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, amplified by the right to development, enhancing the quest for peace, democracy, sustainable development and environmental protection;
- Expand the geographic and substantive reach of existing sub-regional mechanisms and maximize their protection role, with potential cross-fertilization between Asia-Pacific countries and other regions, such as those connected by the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and also possibly by setting up a sub-regional human rights protection mechanism among the Pacific Islands States and an Interchange Platform between existing sub-regional human rights mechanisms to enable exchange of experiences;
- Build upon commitments to the environment-linked treaties, such as the Paris Accord on Climate Change, to ensure access to justice and redress, with possibly an Asia-Pacific inter-governmental Commission or Committee on Environmental Protection, with a human rights dimension;
- Address, with particular attention, the various vulnerabilities with specific impact on gender, ethnicity, identity and other status;
- Promote the role of youth participation as part of the intergenerational dimension, integrating them more strongly into the protection of human rights, with possibly an Asia-Pacific Youth Ambassador for Human Rights as well as an Asia-Pacific Forum for Youth and Human Rights;
- Devolve the UN and its personnel to the field level to enable access to and from concerned communities and individuals, with special emphasis on human rights protection;
- Interlink more closely between the State and key stakeholders, including civil society and the business sector, as pivots for protection and partners in progress, including possibly an Asia-Pacific Business Council for Human Rights;

- Open up the space for civic and political participation inclusively, pluralizing avenues for constructive change and equitizing the share of wealth and power; and
- Utilize the SDGs and other portals of global, regional and national mobilization to incentivize strategic improvements based on prevention, protection, remediation and participation for the fuller realization and enjoyment of human rights, propelling a transformative and shared future.

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Table 1: Overview of ratifications of key human rights conventions by Asia-Pacific countries and UNESCAP Member States according to date of ratification/accession

	Afghanistan	Armenia*	Australia*	Azerbaijan*	Bahrain	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia
CAT	01.04.1987	13.09.1993	08.08.1989	16.08.1996	06.03.1998	05.10.1998	No	No	15.10.1992
CAT-OP	17.04.2018	14.09.2006	21.12.2017	28.01.2009	No	No	No	No	30.03.2007
CCPR	24.01.1983	23.06.1993	13.08.1980	13.08.1992	20.09.2006	06.09.2000	No	No	26.05.1992
CCPR-OP2-DP	No	18.03.2021	02.10.1990	22.01.1999	No	No	No	No	No
CED	No	24.01.2011	No	No	No	No	No	No	27.06.2013
CED, art 32	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CEDAW	05.03.2003	13.09.1993	28.07.1983	10.07.1995	18.06.2002	06.11.1984	31.08.1981	24.05.2006	15.10.1992
CERD	06.07.1983	23.06.1993	30.09.1975	16.08.1996	27.03.1990	11.06.1979	No	No	28.11.1983
CESCR	24.01.1983	13.09.1993	10.12.1975	13.08.1992	27.09.2007	05.10.1998	No	No	26.05.1992
CMW	No	No	No	11.01.1999	No	24.08.2011	No	No	No
CRC	28.03.1994	23.06.1993	17.12.1990	13.08.1992	13.02.1992	03.08.1990	01.08.1990	27.12.1995	15.10.1992
CRC-OP-AC	24.09.2003	30.09.2005	26.09.2006	03.07.2002	21.09.2004	06.09.2000	09.12.2009	17.05.2016	16.07.2004
CRC-OP-SC	19.09.2002	30.06.2005	08.01.2007	03.07.2002	21.09.2004	06.09.2000	26.10.2009	21.11.2006	30.05.2002
CRPD	18.09.2012	22.09.2010	17.07.2008	28.01.2009	22.09.2011	30.11.2007	No	11.04.2016	20.12.2012
UNFCCC	Paris Agreement 15.02.2017 Kyoto Protocol 25.03.2013	Paris Agreement 23.03.2017 Kyoto Protocol 25.04.2003	Paris Agreement 09.11.2016 Kyoto Protocol 12.12.2007	Paris Agreement 09.01.2017 Kyoto Protocol 28.09.2000	Paris Agreement 23.12.2016 Kyoto Protocol 31.01.2006	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 22.10.2001	Paris Agreement 19.09.2017 Kyoto Protocol 26.08.2002	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 20.08.2009	Paris Agreement 06.02.2017 Kyoto Protocol 22.08.2002

	China	Cook Islands	Cyprus	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Fiji	France*	Georgia*	India	Indonesia	Iran
CAT	04.10.1988	No	18.07.1991	No	14.03.2016	18.02.1986	26.10.1994	No	28.10.1998	No
CAT-OP	No	No	29.04.2009	No	No	11.11.2008	09.08.2005	No	No	No
CCPR	No	No	02.04.1969	14.09.1981	16.08.2018	04.11.1980	03.05.1994	10.04.1979	23.02.2006	24.06.1975
CCPR-OP2-DP	No	No	10.09.1999	No	No	02.10.2007	22.03.1999	No	No	No
CED	No	No	No	No	19.08.2019	23.09.2008	No	No	No	No
CED, art 32	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CEDAW	04.11.1980	11.08.2006	23.07.1985	27.02.2001	28.08.1995	14.12.1983	26.10.1994	09.07.1993	13.09.1984	No
CERD	29.12.1981	No	21.04.1967	No	11.01.1973	28.07.1971	02.06.1999	03.12.1968	25.06.1999	29.08.1968
CESCR	27.03.2001	No	02.04.1969	14.09.1981	16.08.2018	04.11.1980	03.05.1994	10.04.1979	23.02.2006	24.06.1975
CMW	No	No	No	No	19.08.2019	No	No	No	31.05.2012	No
CRC	02.03.1992	06.06.1997	07.02.1991	21.09.1990	13.08.1993	07.08.1990	02.06.1994	11.12.1992	05.09.1990	13.07.1994
CRC-OP-AC	20.02.2008	No	02.07.2010	No	29.03.2021	05.02.2003	03.08.2010	30.11.2005	24.09.2012	No
CRC-OP-SC	03.12.2002	No	06.04.2006	10.11.2014	09.03.2021	05.02.2003	28.06.2005	16.08.2005	24.09.2012	26.09.2007
CRPD	01.08.2008	08.05.2009	27.06.2011	06.12.2016	07.06.2017	18.02.2010	13.03.2014	01.10.2007	30.11.2011	23.10.2009
UNFCC	Paris Agreement 03.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 30.08.2002	Paris Agreement 01.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 27.08.2001	Paris Agreement 04.01.2017 Kyoto Protocol 16.07.1999	Paris Agreement 01.08.2016 Kyoto Protocol 27.04.2005	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016 Kyoto Protocol 17.09.1998	Paris Agreement 05.10.2016 Kyoto Protocol 31.05.2002	Paris Agreement 08.05.2017 Kyoto Protocol 19.06.1999	Paris Agreement 02.10.2016 Kyoto Protocol 26.08.2002	Paris Agreement 31.10.2016 Kyoto Protocol 03.12.2004	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016 Kyoto Protocol 20.08.2005

	Iraq	Japan	Jordan	Kazakhstan	Kiribati	Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Lebanon	Malaysia
CAT	07.07.2011	29.06.1999	13.11.1991	26.08.1998	22.07.2019	08.03.1996	05.09.1997	26.09.2012	05.10.2000	No
CAT-OP	No	No	No	22.10.2008	No	No	29.12.2008	No	22.12.2008	No
CCPR	25.01.1971	21.06.1979	28.05.1975	24.01.2006	No	21.05.1996	07.10.1994	25.09.2009	03.11.1972	No
CCPR-OP2-DP	No	No	No	24.03.2022	No	No	06.12.2010	No	No	No
CED	23.11.2010	23.07.2009	No	27.02.2009	No	No	No	No	No	No
CED, art 32	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CEDAW	13.08.1986	25.06.1985	01.07.1992	26.08.1998	17.03.2004	02.09.1994	10.02.1997	14.08.1981	16.04.1997	05.07.1995
CERD	13.02.1970	15.12.1995	30.05.1974	26.08.1998	No	15.10.1968	05.09.1997	22.02.1974	12.11.1971	No
CESCR	25.01.1971	21.06.1979	28.05.1975	24.01.2006	No	21.05.1996	07.10.1994	13.02.2007	03.11.1972	No
CMW	No	No	No	No	No	No	29.09.2003	No	No	No
CRC	15.06.1994	22.04.1994	24.05.1991	12.08.1994	11.12.1995	21.10.1991	07.10.1994	08.05.1991	14.05.1991	17.02.1995
CRC-OP-AC	24.06.2008	02.08.2004	23.05.2007	10.04.2003	16.09.2015	26.08.2004	13.08.2003	20.09.2006	No	12.04.2012
CRC-OP-SC	24.06.2008	24.01.2005	04.12.2006	24.08.2001	16.09.2015	26.08.2004	12.02.2003	20.09.2006	08.11.2004	12.04.2012
CRPD	20.03.2013	20.01.2014	31.03.2008	21.04.2015	27.09.2013	22.08.2013	16.05.2019	25.09.2009	No	19.07.2010
UNFCC	Paris Agreement 01.11.2021 Kyoto Protocol 28.07.2009	Paris Agreement 08.11.2016 Kyoto Protocol 04.06.2002	Paris Agreement 04.11.2016 Kyoto Protocol 17.01.2003	Paris Agreement 06.12.2016 Kyoto Protocol 19.06.2009	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 07.09.2000	Paris Agreement 23.04.2018 Kyoto Protocol 11.03.2005	Paris Agreement 18.02.2020 Kyoto Protocol 13.05.2003	Paris Agreement 07.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 06.02.2003	Paris Agreement 05.02.2020 Kyoto Protocol 13.11.2006	Paris Agreement 16.11.2016 Kyoto Protocol 04.09.2002

	Maldives	Marshall Islands	Micronesia	Mongolia	Myanmar	Nauru	Nepal	Netherlands*	New Zealand*	Niue
CAT	20.04.2004	12.03.2018	No	24.01.2002	No	26.09.2012	14.05.1991	21.12.1988	10.12.1989	No
CAT-OP	15.02.2006	No	No	12.02.2015	No	24.01.2013	No	28.09.2010	14.03.2007	No
CCPR	19.09.2006	12.03.2018	No	18.11.1974	No	No	14.05.1991	11.12.1978	28.12.1978	No
CCPR-OP2-DP	No	No	No	13.03.2012	No	No	04.03.1998	26.03.1991	22.02.1990	No
CED	31.07.2023	No	No	12.02.2015	No	No	No	23.03.2011	No	No
CED, art 32	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CEDAW	01.07.1993	02.03.2006	01.09.2004	20.07.1981	22.07.1997	23.06.2011	22.04.1991	23.07.1991	10.01.1985	No
CERD	24.04.1984	11.04.2019	No	06.08.1969	No	No	30.01.1971	10.12.1971	22.11.1972	No
CESCR	19.09.2006	12.03.2018	No	18.11.1974	06.10.2017	No	14.05.1991	11.12.1978	28.12.1978	No
CMW	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CRC	11.02.1991	04.10.1993	05.10.1993	05.07.1990	15.07.1991	27.07.1994	14.09.1990	06.02.1995	06.04.1993	20.12.1995
CRC-OP-AC	29.12.2004	No	26.10.2015	06.10.2004	27.09.2019	No	03.01.2007	24.09.2009	12.11.2001	No
CRC-OP-SC	10.05.2002	29.01.2019	23.04.2012	27.06.2003	16.01.2012	No	20.01.2006	23.08.2005	20.09.2011	No
CRPD	05.04.2010	17.03.2015	07.12.2016	13.05.2009	07.12.2011	27.06.2012	07.05.2010	14.06.2016	25.09.2008	No
UNFCC	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016 Kyoto Protocol 30.12.1998	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016 Kyoto Protocol 11.08.2003	Paris Agreement 15.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 21.06.1999	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 15.12.1999	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016 Kyoto Protocol 13.08.2003	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016 Kyoto Protocol 16.08.2001	Paris Agreement 05.10.2016 Kyoto Protocol 16.09.2005	Paris Agreement 28.07.2017 Kyoto Protocol 31.05.2002	Paris Agreement 04.10.2016 Kyoto Protocol 19.12.2002	Paris Agreement 28.10.2016 Kyoto Protocol 06.05.1999

	Oman	Pakistan	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Philippines	Qatar	Republic of Korea	Russia Federation*	Samoa	Saudi Arabia
CAT	09.06.2020	23.06.2010	No	No	18.06.1986	11.01.2000	09.01.1995	03.03.1987	28.03.2019	23.09.1997
CAT-OP	No	No	No	No	17.04.2012	No	No	No	No	No
CCPR	No	23.06.2010	No	21.07.2008	23.10.1986	21.05.2018	10.04.1990	16.10.1973	15.02.2008	No
CCPR-OP2-DP	No	No	No	No	20.11.2007	No	No	No	No	No
CED	12.06.2020	No	No	No	No	No	04.01.2023	No	27.11.2012	No
CED, art 32	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CEDAW	07.02.2006	12.03.1996	No	12.01.1995	05.08.1981	29.04.2009	27.12.1984	23.01.1981	25.09.1992	07.09.2000
CERD	02.01.2003	21.09.1966	No	27.01.1982	15.09.1967	22.07.1976	05.12.1978	04.02.1969	No	23.09.1997
CESCR	09.06.2020	17.04.2008	No	21.07.2008	07.06.1974	21.05.2018	10.04.1990	16.10.1973	No	No
CMW	No	No	No	No	05.07.1995	No	No	No	No	No
CRC	09.12.1996	12.11.1990	04.08.1995	02.03.1993	21.08.1990	03.04.1995	20.11.1991	16.08.1990	29.11.1994	26.01.1996
CRC-OP-AC	17.09.2004	17.11.2016	No	No	26.08.2003	25.07.2002	24.09.2004	24.09.2008	17.05.2016	10.06.2011
CRC-OP-SC	17.09.2004	05.07.2011	No	No	28.05.2002	14.12.2001	24.09.2004	24.09.2013	29.04.2016	18.08.2010
CRPD	06.01.2009	05.07.2011	11.06.2013	26.09.2013	15.04.2008	13.05.2008	11.12.2008	25.09.2012	02.12.2016	24.06.2008
UNFCC	Paris Agreement 22.05.2019	Paris Agreement 10.11.2016	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016	Paris Agreement 07.09.2016	Paris Agreement 23.06.2017	Paris Agreement 03.11.2016	Paris Agreement 03.11.2016	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016	Paris Agreement 03.11.2016
	Kyoto Protocol 19.01.2005	Kyoto Protocol 10.01.2005	Kyoto Protocol 10.02.1999	Kyoto Protocol 28.03.2002	Kyoto Protocol 06.02.2003	Kyoto Protocol 11.01.2005	Kyoto Protocol 25.09.2002	Kyoto Protocol 08.09.2002	Kyoto Protocol 27.11.2000	Kyoto Protocol 31.01.2005

	Singapore	Solomon Islands	Sri Lanka	Syrian Arab Republic	Tajikistan	Thailand	Timor-Leste	Tonga	Türkiye	Turkmenistan	Tuvalu
CAT	No	No	03.01.1994	19.08.2004	11.01.1995	02.10.2007	16.04.2003	No	02.08.1988	25.06.1999	No
CAT-OP	No	No	05.12.2017	No	No	No	No	No	27.09.2011	No	No
CCPR	No	No	11.06.1980	21.04.1969	04.01.1999	29.10.1996	18.09.2003	No	23.09.2003	01.05.1997	No
CCPR-OP2-DP	No	No	No	No	No	No	18.09.2003	No	02.03.2006	11.01.2000	No
CED	No	No	25.05.2016	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CED, art 32	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CEDAW	05.10.1995	06.05.2002	05.10.1981	28.03.2003	26.10.1993	09.08.1985	16.04.2003	No	20.12.1985	01.05.1997	06.10.1999
CERD	27.11.2017	17.03.1982	18.02.1982	21.04.1969	11.01.1995	28.01.2003	16.04.2003	16.02.1972	16.09.2002	29.09.1994	No
CESCR		17.03.1982	11.06.1980	21.04.1969	04.01.1999	05.09.1999	16.04.2003	No	23.09.2003	01.05.1997	No
CMW	No	No	11.03.1996	02.06.2005	08.01.2002	No	30.01.2004	No	27.09.2004	No	No
CRC	05.10.1995	10.04.1995	12.06.1991	15.07.1993	26.10.1993	27.03.1992	16.04.2003	06.11.1995	04.04.1995	20.09.1993	22.09.1995
CRC-OP-AC	11.12.2008	20.01.2023	08.09.2000	17.10.2003	05.08.2002	27.02.2006	02.08.2004	No	04.05.2004	29.04.2005	No
CRC-OP-SC	No	No	22.09.2006	15.05.2003	05.08.2002	11.01.2006	16.04.2003	No	19.08.2002	28.03.2005	No
CRPD	18.07.2013	22.06.2023	08.02.2016	10.07.2009	No	29.07.2008	17.01.2023	No	28.09.2009	04.09.2008	18.12.2013
UNFCC	Paris Agreement 07.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 06.02.2003	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 13.03.2003	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 03.09.2002	Paris Agreement 13.11.2017 Kyoto Protocol 27.01.2006	Paris Agreement 20.03.2017 Kyoto Protocol 29.12.2008	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 28.08.2002	Paris Agreement 16.08.2017 Kyoto Protocol 14.10.2008	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 14.01.2008	Paris Agreement 11.10.2021 Kyoto Protocol 14.01.200	Paris Agreement 20.10.2016 Kyoto Protocol 11.01.1999	Paris Agreement 22.04.2016 Kyoto Protocol 16.11.1998

	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*	United States of America*	United Arab Emirates	Uzbekistan	Vanuatu	Vietnam	Yemen
CAT	08.12.1988	21.10.1994	19.07.2012	28.09.1995	12.07.2011	05.02.2015	05.11.1991
CAT-OP	10.12.2003	No	No	No	No	No	No
CCPR	20.05.1976	08.06.1992	No	28.09.1995	21.11.2008	24.09.1982	09.02.1987
CCPR-OP2-DP	10.12.1999	No	No	23.12.2008	No	No	No
CED	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CED, art 32	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CEDAW	07.04.1986	No	06.10.2004	19.07.1995	08.09.1995	17.02.1982	30.05.1984
CERD	07.03.1969	21.10.1994	20.06.1974	28.09.1995	No	09.06.1982	18.10.1972
CESCR	20.05.1976	No	No	28.09.1995	No	24.09.1982	09.02.1987
CMW	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CRC	16.12.1991	No	03.01.1997	29.06.1994	07.07.1993	28.02.1990	01.05.1991
CRC-OP-AC	24.06.2003	23.12.2002	No	23.12.2008	26.09.2007	20.12.2001	02.03.2007
CRC-OP-SC	20.02.2009	23.12.2002	02.03.2016	23.12.2008	17.05.2007	20.12.2001	15.12.2004
CRPD	08.06.2009	No	19.03.2010	28.06.2021	23.10.2008	05.02.2015	26.03.2009
UNFCC	Paris Agreement 18.11.2016 Kyoto Protocol 31.05.2002	Paris Agreement 20.01.2021 Kyoto Protocol N/A	Paris Agreement 21.09.2016 Kyoto Protocol 26.01.2005	Paris Agreement 09.11.2018 Kyoto Protocol 12.10.1999	Paris Agreement 20.01.2021 Kyoto Protocol N/A	Paris Agreement 03.11.2016 Kyoto Protocol 25.09.2002	Paris Agreement N/A Kyoto Protocol 15.09.2004

- CAT = Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- CAT-OP = Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- CCPR = Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- CCPR-OP2-DP = Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- CED = Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance
- CED, art 32 = Article 32 of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance
- CEDAW = Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- CERD = Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- CESCR = Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- CMW = Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- CRC = Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CRC-OP-AC = Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- CRC-OP-SC = Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- CRPD = Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- UNFCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

* [UNESCAP Member States](#) who are not in the [Asia-Pacific Group](#)