



People's Agenda for ASEM Parliamentarians

The Asia Europe People's Forum

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The People's Agenda for ASEM Parliamentarians expresses the visions and demands of hundreds of progressive peoples' movements, non-governmental organisations, campaign networks and individuals, that are confronting, researching and collating popular knowledge for alternatives, campaigning for policies against poverty and inequality and working for social, economic and climate justice, so contributing to a more **Just, Equal, Inclusive and ecologically sustainable Asia and Europe.**

We are linked and brought together through the Asia Europe People's Forum.

We are committed to working in constructive ways, promoting, consolidating and strengthening engagement with ASEM governments' leaders, parliamentarians and related regional bodies to develop and implement people-centred responses to the current crises in an effective and responsible manner.

We believe that priority must be given to poor, excluded and marginalised people.

We believe that more participatory, inclusive, democratic and accountable institutions must be in place to assure that processes and measures will lead to a just, equal, inclusive and ecologically sustainable Asia and Europe based on respect for gender equality and the promotion and protection of human, economic and social and cultural rights, respect for our environment and ecology and the protection of our Commons.

We are sincerely presenting the **People's Agenda for ASEM Parliamentarians** to you, our elected and appointed representatives at local, national and regional levels. You, and the governments that you are part of, have the responsibility to ensure that we can all live in peace, security and dignity.

As Asian and European social movements, organisations, networks and citizens committed to working for a just, equal, inclusive and ecologically sustainable world, we call on our Asian and European Parliamentarians and our governments to join with us in taking forward a People's Agenda founded on four fundamental principles:

- i) The promotion of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights as agreed in international human rights and humanitarian law.¹
- ii) The promotion of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable patterns of development.²
- iii) Greater economic and social equity and justice, including equality between women and men.³
- iv) The active participation of civil society organisations in democratic life, governance and decision-making process of their countries.⁴

¹ This can be enabled by priority being given to poor, excluded and marginalised people

² This can be enabled by the promotion and protection of human, economic and socio-cultural rights, environmental security and the protection of our Commons.

³ This can be enabled by processes and measures for just, equal, inclusive and sustainable Asia and Europe based on consistent respect for gender equality

⁴ This can be enabled through more democratic, accountable and transparent institutions being in place.

Why we are addressing and engaging with ASEM Parliamentarians

We present this **People's Agenda** to you are at a time of profound challenges across all our countries. These are deepening and exacerbating the pre-existing inequalities, injustices and, widening the gap between the rich and the poor. We live in a world where there is an intensifying of the grossly unequal access to resources, livelihood opportunities and essential public services.

According to a consensus of international analysis, echoed and reinforced by the women, men, movements and networks that the AEPF has been and continues to work with, we collectively face the three interlinked fundamental challenges of - **Climate crisis and biodiversity loss; Authoritarianism and discrimination; Growing Inequality** – that are having major influences on the lives, livelihoods and felt futures of the majority of people across Asia and Europe.

Covid19 has dramatically highlighted the need for just, equal and inclusive social and economic initiatives, policies and alternatives that can become policies and practices that are sincerely implemented, supported in law and taken forward across an increasing number of communities and countries across Asia and Europe.

Our current challenges are rooted in the dominant development approach of the last decades - based around deregulation of markets, increasing power of multinational corporations, unaccountable multilateral institutions and trade liberalisation – which has failed to meet the needs and rights of all citizens. This has led to a gradual hollowing out of democratic accountability and a corrosion of a growing number of democratic institutions as elites make decisions and implement policies with limited or no scrutiny from citizens, creating the conditions for poverty, inequality, environmental and climate devastation and growing social unrest.

There is a deeply felt need and demand for change and for new participatory and inclusive, people-centred policies and practices. This has now become an imperative.

Pervasive is the rapidly rising power of transnational corporations which are *de facto* turning into 'corporate nations' that are bigger and more powerful than some nations, controlling an ever-growing share of the world's economy. Their global power is reinforced by trade and investment agreements focused on unfettered liberalisation of trade in goods and services, market access and protections for foreign direct investors.

This 'corporate capture' of governance, allowing great influence on economic policies from trade to tax policies, has significant influence over our lives and livelihoods and huge economic, political, social, environmental and cultural impacts, globally. This has progressively weakened governments and nation states abilities to address common crises such as the ones we are currently living in.

Climate change and bio-diversity loss, unchecked will lead us losing hundreds of thousands of lives, and thousands of species, could be lost to climate and ecological breakdown between now and 2050.

At the same time globally, fossil fuel subsidies, the majority from governments, total an estimated \$5 trillion. Paradoxically a Global Green New Deal is within our grasps. Transformative change is an imperative.

Countries around the world spend over \$1tn a year on weapons of destruction, while annually millions of people die of easily treatable diseases⁵. Shifts from weapons to health care is needed now.

Forced migration and displacement is a growing reality for millions of people.

At the heart of many injustices are the continuing inequalities between women and men. These are lived in all aspects of our lives and just and respectful change is essential for all our futures. We must join together to end violence to women in homes and workplaces, on the streets and in the fields. This has now become an imperative.

Statistical economic growth has been founded on the growing desecration and destruction of our Commons, our resources, environments and climate. Our climate crisis has demonstrated a destruction of many species, as historical injustices of climate policies continue. Our governments' have deflected progressive calls to protect the planet and protect the people.

In Asia the current crises are exacerbating already widespread poverty and inequality. In Europe the crises are creating indebtedness, precarious work, joblessness, the erosion of access to inclusive public services, including health and growing income insecurity.

Fractured economies have consolidated divisive and polarising politics that are creating now, more than ever, insiders and outsiders, the growth of racism and xenophobia that makes social relations toxic and conflictual. They are contributing to pronounced democratic deficits. In many countries democratic and civic spaces are shrinking, with the hollowing out of democratic accountability, corrosion of a democratic institutions and rights and the strengthening of an architecture of authoritarianism.

Now we have a common need to build just, equal, inclusive and ecologically sustainable Asia and Europe, and more accountable and democratic institutions – based on respect for gender equality, our environment and fundamental human rights.

A People's Agenda is essential for our common futures.

⁵ https://www.who.int/whr/1996/media_centre/press_release/en/

Our Call

Every person on this planet shares a common humanity.

We all want to be healthy, have a good education, have decent work, be supported with social protections, drink clean water and breathe clean air.

We all want to be respected whatever our background and gender identity, to live in peace and to respect our environments.

Our governments' have deflected progressive calls to protect the planet and protect the people. We all need and expect, urgent and people centred collective and national responses for our common futures.

We call on our Governments to work with citizens, including poor, excluded and marginalised women and men, to develop and implement policies that will lead to a just, equal, inclusive and ecologically sustainable Asia and Europe, and more accountable and democratic institutions – based on respect for gender equality, our environment and fundamental human rights.

To do this, as citizens, we call upon Parliamentarians and ASEM Governments to develop legislation and mobilise the resources for the following:

Participatory Democracy, Reclaiming People's Rights and Fundamental Freedoms – People's Visions and Recommendations for change

The current phase of neo-liberal globalisation based on control of intellectual and material resources has hastened the pace of corporate capture of legal and political processes. 'New technologies', 'new economics' and 'new ways of communicating' are marked by the continued destruction of many public services and their privatisation. This has led to a crisis in the ability of elected representatives, governments, to fulfil their responsibilities to their citizens. This has contributed to polarising of people and creating atmospheres of partisan politics that threaten to tear societies apart. We live increasingly in a world of insiders and outsiders, of concentrations of power and wealth and of the regime of the corporations. Divided and dividing economies have increasingly consolidated dividing and divisive politics.

A growing number of countries across Asia and Europe are experiencing more authoritarian and excluding politics. In many countries, the spaces and freedom of people to express their concerns to their elected representatives, at local and national levels, are being systematically limited, restricted, threatened and closed. Summarised as shrinking democratic and civic spaces, this translates as the exclusion and the suppression of fundamental human rights, of voices, of dissent and of the rights to associate, organise, mobilise and demonstrate. This trend, which already existed in some authoritarian states, is now growing in managed democracies.

Linked, is a discernible hostility toward democratic norms, antagonism towards a free press and intolerance towards some ethnic and religious minorities and migrants. This trend is also contributing to forced migration and refugee movements with severe ramifications, especially for women and children.

The combination of political and economic polarization, right wing assertion, distress on account of the Covid-19 Pandemic has unequally impacted those who were already marginalised. More women have climbed down the poverty ladder, lost jobs, carried the burden of caring single handedly and faced increased gender-based violence in every section of marginalised groups and classes.

There has also been the rise of vigilante and violent, conservative social and cultural groups in some countries. Dissent is increasingly criminalised and violence often used to assert and maintain power. Spaces to dissent are being constricted and delegitimised in a growing number of countries.

We urge ASEM Parliamentarians to defend substantive democracy and rights. Currently in many countries human rights defenders, not only of minorities and marginalised groups but also of voices of dissent, are being silenced by climates of fear, threats of violence, arbitrary detention and imprisonment and of enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings.

We believe that nearly four decades of neoliberal economic and corporate led-globalisation have led to increasing poverty and exclusion; centralisation of power; and the increasing use of national security mechanisms and surveillance to exclude and repress citizens from civic and political

engagement and activity. This is harming inter-community and gender relations, and democratic and corporate accountability.

Responding to more authoritarian governance and shrinking democratic and civic spaces:-

Our Key Recommendations and Demands for Change to ASEM Parliamentarians

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:-

1. Promote substantive participatory democratic processes which respect diversity by creating and expanding spaces for dialogue, interaction, tolerance and for enabling voice for all. This should be done without creating and reproducing class, caste, ethnic, gender and religious identities.
2. Enable local and national governments to share information and be accountable to citizens, to interact with local communities and ensure genuine access to processes of decision making. Local communities should be consulted at every stage of the decision making processes where their lives, livelihoods and living environments are affected. Citizens should be able to effectively use various mechanisms including right to information, social audits and participatory budgeting, according to specific country contexts.
3. The guarantee of the right to dissent and to participate in peaceful protest should be protected in international law.
4. All laws of sedition should be abrogated following the European Court on Human Rights' statement that a "democratic society should tolerate ideas that offend, shock or disturb the State or any sector of the population" and make every effort to uphold right to expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and related rights.
5. Ensure that women are equal partners at all levels in decision making processes and that all institutions have the capacity to protect women against gender-based violence in compliance with the international statutes.
6. Recognise that, in addition to Sombath Somphone, there are a growing number of cases of Enforced Disappearances, abductions, arbitrary arrests, extra-judicial killings and other Human Rights abuses. We urge ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to reaffirm their commitments to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent agreed Human Rights including UN Conventions and end the gap between agreed commitments and the lived realities of many peoples and communities.
7. Support and assist in creating opportunities for human rights defenders' and civic actors from Asia and Europe to build solidarity across countries, cultures, struggles, issues and sectors.
8. Adopt legislation and appropriate monitoring mechanisms to ensure adherence to legislation to create safer working environments, free of police repression, for all workers, especially

women, and particularly in terms of sexual harassment. Governments are called to guarantee that the laws and norms that do exist are translated into reality.

9. Promote equality for all, regardless of class, ethnicity, nationality, race, caste, religion, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and expression) and age in fulfilment of international human rights law.
10. Establish mechanisms and support affirmative action to enable the making visible and giving voice to young people, women, LGBTQI Plus people, people with disabilities, HIV+ status, ethnic, religious and other minorities.
11. Urge ASEM governments to continue to uphold equality for all in legislation and policies by meaningful engagements of all relevant parties, especially of young people and the diverse minorities, through public information, awareness building and all forms of education aimed at ending all forms of discrimination and violence.
12. In the context of increasing assaults on civil society activists and shrinking spaces for the marginalised, we urge ASEM civil society to continue building on intersectional solidarity arising from the diversity of people; to promote awareness, information and respect around these diversities and enable meaningful participation and inclusion of all minorities in matters of governance as well as resources management.
13. Enable Governments and Civil Society Organisations and social movements to promote democratic governance by making full use of SDG 16 which, as a cross-cutting goal, integrates peace, human rights, democracy and transparency.
14. Appeal to public institutions, including local and national Parliaments, to recognise the special needs of disabled people, including those with hearing disabilities and introduce sign language as official means of communication. The disabled people should be accorded all assistance, including technological support, to enable their equal participation.

We pledge to support and work to take forward the People's Agenda for Participatory Democracy, Reclaiming People's Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Migrants and Refugees - People's Vision and Recommendations for change

Everybody has a right to stay in his/her country of origin, and everybody should have a right to migrate and to seek asylum. In many countries the refugee and migrant “crises” is actually a humanitarian crisis created by forced mass displacements, a loss of livelihoods, the repression of human rights, and by wars and military interventions.

The situation of migrant and refugee people in mobility has been dramatically accentuated by the major roll-the back of a human rights based framework leading to closure of legal routes, and, in many areas, to closed border regimes, to policies of ‘push-backs’ and the erecting of walls and electrified fences.

We denounce the deaths of thousands of refugees and migrants on the migration routes within Asia, within Europe and between Asia and Europe.

Our Key Recommendations and Demands for Change to ASEM Parliamentarians

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:-

1. All governments should ratify the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Additional Protocol (1967) and the International Convention of the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990) and for the ratification and implementation of the ILO Conventions, C97 (revised), C 143 and C189. They should immediately enact appropriate domestic legislation and internal policies to ensure legal protection of the persons of migrants and refugees;
2. All governments should adopt legal provisions for immigration, for granting asylum and for protecting stateless people. The prime framework of reference should be human rights rather than securitisation of border regimes, nation states and national identities;
3. We call on ASEM Member governments to work collaboratively with other appropriate international institutions for an international status for economic migrants, similar to the UN Geneva International Convention on refugees;
4. Establish transparent mechanisms to monitor border regimes, movements of migrant and refugee peoples and state practices and to provide appropriate, accessible information and not reproduce a climate of fear. Establish and enable support structures and self-organised grassroots solidarity in order to give migrants and refugees their own voice;
5. Promote zero tolerance of racism, xenophobia and islamophobia and all forms of institutionalised discrimination in access to employment, education, and other public services, including health and housing;

6. Counter all attempts to divide up migrant and refugee peoples in legal and illegal, good and bad, and root causes of migration into legitimate and non-legitimate. Most motivations for migration are for a life of dignity, and peace with economic security;
7. Recognise that the root causes of migration such as loss of livelihood, impoverishment, climate change, trade and investment policies, inequalities and war should be addressed through comprehensive, collaborative international actions and programmes. Nobody should be displaced or forced to leave their country of origin;
8. Our specific demands include the calls to:
 - i. End immediately practices of mass detention and deportation;
 - ii. Restore the right to rescue migrant and refugee people in transit and stop criminalisation of solidarity.

We pledge to support and work to take forward the People’s Agenda for Migrants and Refugees

Promoting a Fair and Sustainable Financial System- People's Vision and Recommendations for change

After the 2008 global financial crisis, 'big banks' were rescued and public spending was curtailed. Despite all the pledges to reform the system in the wake of the 2008 crisis, virtually no structural reforms have taken place.

There are potentially enough funds at public disposal to meet our collective everyday needs. Once these are spent and invested by publicly owned and democratically organized institutions, and no longer extracted by the private sector and market mechanisms, we can start to redirect wealth to finance the future we want.

Our Key Recommendations and Demands for Change to ASEM Parliamentarians

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:-

1. Ensure funding for **Global Green New Deal** Just Transitions plans, **through** debt cancellation, abolishing tax havens, ending tax breaks for the rich, ending fossil fuel subsidies, phasing out polluting industries and using their assets toward the just transitions.
2. Allocate at least half of each country's budget to the Just Transitions initiatives.
3. Allocate at least 80 percent of the current military budgets to pay ecological and colonial reparations to frontline communities, particularly those in the global South.
4. Create local, democratic and publicly owned banks to finance investments to meet people's needs.
5. Build robust democratic ownership of public financial institutions by ensuring that worker, user and community representatives are on supervisory or director boards, built with requirements for gender and diverse ethnic representation.
6. Establish a binding public mandate and a socio-ecological mission for public financial institutions.
7. Use public financing to directly invest in public services and low-carbon infrastructure,ⁱ instead of private deals such as public-private partnerships (PPPs). Ensure long-term investments to rebuild public services and upgrade our heating, power, electricity and transportation infrastructure to be run on renewable sources.
8. Transform the public money system by demanding that governments use their money-making powers to create funds for much-needed public spending in the face of the urgent

climate, health and inequality crises.

9. Expose the corporate welfare model by carrying out a transparent citizens' audit of government budgets at the local, regional or national levels and to set up citizens' platforms to discuss alternative spending of those resources.ⁱⁱ
10. Demand a broader public mandate with social and environmental targets for central banks in order to achieve full and secure employment and to finance an equitable transition towards a sustainable and low-carbon society.ⁱⁱⁱ
11. Pass legislation to enable central banks to buy out the big private energy companies in order to keep fossil fuels in the ground. The buyout should carry a binding mandate to decommission fossil fuels with increased investment in democratically renewable energy, while leaving no worker or community behind.^{iv}
12. Deliver tax justice by stopping tax evasion and implementing a progressive tax system in which big corporations and wealthy individuals pay the highest taxes, wherever they live and operate.
13. Create regional finance networks to fund production and service cooperatives in order to improve the region's socio-economic resilience. Cooperative finance institutions could provide grants and low-interest loans to democratic enterprises that cultivate the land or provide essential services, such as housing.^v
14. Encourage public 'anchor' institutions such as hospitals and universities to purchase from and invest in democratic businesses, such as worker cooperatives, employee-owned firms and community-based social enterprises. Local government subsidies, investments and support services can also help democratic businesses to scale-up into more resilient enterprises.

We pledge to support and work to take forward the People's Agenda for Promoting a Fair and Sustainable Financial System

Social Justice - People's Vision and Recommendations for change

We are concerned with the growing social distress of people all across the world, faced with multiple problems of war, environmental degradation and climate change, rising inequalities and persistent poverty, economic crises, precariousness of work, austerity policies and growing authoritarianism, erosion of human rights, discrimination and intolerance.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated all these problems and made them more visible. To-day, no one can ignore the worsening situation in terms of economic and social rights. We have to take this opportunity to change the social paradigm in the direction of more social justice.

We consider comprehensive and universal social protection rights to be a primary element to promote social justice, within a coherent and just political and economic context.

We give our full support to the existing global initiatives, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the ILO Social Protection Floors. We also want to go beyond these traditional rights, to encompass environmental needs and make the link to other sectors such as peace, democracy and trade. In that way, social protection is **not a correction mechanism for the economic system, but can be transformative**, that is, contribute to the sustainability of life.

We believe that **social protection is a common**, emerging from the democratic and participatory actions of citizens with demands for public authorities. We see social protection as a collective and democratic endeavour for achieving a life in and of dignity for all. Democracy and social dialogue are indeed at the heart of social protection.

While at different levels of development, Europe and Asia face the same challenge to pursue social justice with renewed and more meaningful roles for the State and social movements. Social justice is based on the concepts of human rights, solidarity and equality. Across the two continents, civil society groups and social movements urgently demand for social justice with the goals to guarantee a life of dignity, to empower people, and to transform societies in a just and sustainable manner based on the principles of equality, justice, solidarity, and participatory democracy.

We are deeply concerned that across Europe and much of Asia neoliberal as well as authoritarian populist policies including de-regulation, eroding of workers' rights, severe cuts to social spending and large-scale privatisation of essential goods and services have caused widespread joblessness and precarious work, profound social inequality, and further social exclusion. These fundamental changes have been sharpened and accentuated by government and corporate responses to Covid-19. These have made the lives of millions of men, women and children more vulnerable.

Today, more than ever, people need social protection. Therefore, we call on our governments to pursue social justice that addresses the structural causes and processes of poverty, inequality, and disempowerment.

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:-

1. Meet their international obligations and fulfil their responsibility to guarantee sustainable livelihoods with the full participation of civil society, workers and employers' organisations in a process of extending **inclusive, solidarity-based universal social protection systems**.
2. Develop adequate **fiscal policies** that generate sufficient domestic funds for universal and comprehensive social protection systems.
3. **Stop and ban the privatisation and commodification of common goods** that are vital and indispensable for sustaining life. Promote instead public-public partnerships or public partnerships with people's enterprises or solidarity economy including co-operatives.
4. Institutionalise mechanisms for people's meaningful participation in decision-making processes affecting their lives and livelihood in total transparency so as to consider their **economic, social and environmental rights as commons**.
5. Promote a **rights and solidarity-based system of universal social protection**, with social insurances (security), labour law, social assistance for the poor and public services, including housing.
6. As the COVID crisis has clearly shown, the availability of free and public health care is crucial, as well as the availability of vaccines in times of pandemic. These vaccines necessarily have to be considered as global public goods.
7. Promote **decent work**, stop the contractualisation of work, respect the ILO's Core Labour Standards, enforce living wages, implement programmes to guarantee work for everyone and integrate all workers, including those from the informal sector and care in a regulated and solidarity-based social protection system. Prepare workers for the technological changes of the 21st century.
8. Stop the privatization of essential services and **guarantee socialized services** such as for food, health care, water, electricity, housing, education and others, with mechanisms for democratic access, ownership and control.
9. Use the ILO initiative for **Social Protection Floors and the UN Sustainable Development Goals** as an initial step for a universal, transformative and solidarity-based social protection system.

10. To the ASEAN Member-States, adopt an **Agenda for a Social ASEAN** that ensures implementation of all above-mentioned points, enabling democratic, participatory and people-centred processes not only in the implementation but also in the design and monitoring of these programmes in order to put people over and above corporate interests in the context of the ASEAN regional economic integration project.
11. Set up a Regional as well as a Global **Social Protection Fund** as proposed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier de Schutter and UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Magdalena Sepulveda, in order to meet the basic costs of putting universal social protection systems in place.

We pledge to support and work to take forward the People’s Agenda for Social Justice

Global Charter for Social Protection Rights – for all and by all

www.globalsocialprotectioincharter.eu

Our social protection is based on the valid principles of the past, though it takes into account the new circumstances of the 21st century. It is based on human rights and solidarity.

It consists of insurances and assistance, of labour rights and public services.

We see social protection as a commons, as something that belongs to us all.

Our social protection is universal, it is by all and for all, without any exceptions. This means it goes beyond poverty reduction. Its implementation is a major responsibility of States/public authorities, because they are the guarantors of our human rights, and because States have to be seen as a kind of public service, at the service of citizens.

In this way, social protection as commons basically means a democratisation of social protection, with the participation of all. It thus becomes emancipatory, it can free people from the chains of capital. That is why our social protection is incompatible with neoliberalism.

This Charter is not a binding text, but can be an inspiration for all those who want to work on social justice.

As such, it is directly linked to many other sectors and can be transformative. In other words, social protection with a view on social justice can be a starting point from which you embark on changing all other policies. It is a way to convince people, offering them direct material advantages, it is a way to broaden your audience, not to say, to win elections. Because one should never forget: all people need protection and broadly speaking, there are only two ways to offer protection: by way of economic and social rights, or by way of the police and the military. The choice is ours.

Climate Justice and Just Transitions – People’s Vision and Recommendations for change

Climate change is a manifestation of the planetary social and ecological crisis brought about by the dual expansion of capitalism and industrialism that has produced a skewed process of global wealth creation. In 2015, the 196 governments that attended the 21st Conference of Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed to pursue efforts to halt the global average temperature increase to below 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels. This aspiration, however, was not matched by the reality of current voluntary pledges in countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This is not only a step back from the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities stipulated in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, but will also condemn us to a 3°C warmer world.

A central requirement to solving climate change is a complete transition, as soon as possible, from fossil-fuel dependent, undemocratic and unjust energy production and use.

Energy is vital to realising people’s rights, social justice, and sustainable development. Yet the world’s dominant energy systems completely fail more than two billion people and have destructive local impacts – damaging our health, destroying our crops, and poisoning our rivers and forests. The current energy systems are also driving global warming. This climate change is already wreaking havoc on the lives of tens of millions of people worldwide by intensifying floods, droughts, and storms; driving people from their homes; acidifying the oceans; and driving an unprecedented extinction of non-human species.

Climate change puts all of our lives, livelihoods, societies, and cultures at risk.

Some positive transformation is already happening but we must accelerate it.

Our Key Recommendations and Demands for Change to ASEM Parliamentarians

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:-

1. Ban new ‘dirty energy’ projects and stop the expansion of fossil fuel energy production and consumption;
2. End government subsidies and public handouts to ‘dirty energy’ and related companies;
3. Stop excessive energy consumption by corporations and global elites;
4. Redirect and mobilise public finance to ensure people’s universal access to energy and make the complete shift to public and community/decentralised renewable and clean energy systems as soon as possible;
5. Divest from fossil fuel corporations;

6. Keep fossil fuels in the ground and support the transition needs of societies in their path towards increased use of energies that are renewable, clean, accessible, sustainable, and more importantly democratically owned;
7. Have concrete short term and medium term plans for appropriate emissions reduction to ensure the possibility that the 1.5°C limit will still be possible so potentially preventing climate catastrophe. Financial resources and technology assistance to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation needs must be extended, also for the loss and damage suffered from climate-induced disasters;

Towards realising the above, we urge ASEM governments to adopt appropriate legislation to enable the following as a matter of urgency:

1. COMMIT to 100% renewable energy for all, to be achieved not later than 2030 for developed countries and as early as possible before 2050 for developing countries;
2. PLEDGE the finance necessary to build democratic, renewable energy systems for communities, ensure a just transition, provide universal access to energy, support demand-side reduction and energy saving measures;
3. AGREE to an international moratorium on new coal projects to be implemented no later than January 2022
4. BAN fracking and new gas projects and adopt a global moratorium on new fossil fuel exploration and extraction techniques starting in 2021 towards ending fossil fuels extraction as soon as possible;
5. STOP large and dangerous energy projects;
6. ANNOUNCE a phase out of public subsidies for fossil fuels to be completed by 2022 for all developed countries and the international institutions they fund, and by 2025 for all developing countries;
7. WITHDRAW all public financing of large-scale biomass burning, agro fuels, mega-dams and waste incineration by 2022;
8. ADOPT binding national and international policies that prohibit industries that profit from fossil fuels and the climate crisis, and those representing their interests, from participating in international and national climate policy forums.

We pledge to support and work to take forward the People's Agenda for Climate Justice and Just Transitions

Trade Justice and Corporate Accountability - People's Vision and Recommendations for change

The AEPF Thematic Cluster on **Trade Justice and Corporate Accountability** observes in dismay that in this period of global pandemic and while states are implementing lockdowns and quarantine measures, negotiations for free trade agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have continued online through virtual conferences. The online format became even more inaccessible.

Governments ignored a letter issued by over 400 civil society organizations addressed to Trade Ministers and the World Trade Organization to **“Stop all trade and investment treaty negotiations during the COVID-19 outbreak and instead refocus on access to medical supplies and saving lives”**. The Open Letter raised the important point that in a time of an unprecedented global health crisis, “the first and only priority for trade negotiators at this time should be to remove all obstacles, including intellectual property rules, in existing agreements that hinder timely and affordable access to medical supplies, such as life saving medicines, devices, diagnostics and vaccines, and the ability of governments to take whatever steps are necessary to address this crisis.”

Responses to Covid19 still followed the profit-driven market model where people's health and very lives are undermined by corporate interests. Furthermore, impoverished and developing countries are forced to pay high prices for vaccines through grants and loans. 'Big Pharma' control access to life-saving vaccines and are selling them to highest bidders. The ongoing intellectual property disputes over patents hinder the development and production of enough COVID-19 vaccines to address the pandemic.

The global economic crisis, which is far bigger than anything the world has seen, demands an overhaul of trade and investment policies. Past economic liberalisation already undermined basic services and aggravated climate change. It is unacceptable that trade agreements at the WTO and at the bilateral and regional levels, continue to be dominated by corporate interests. This should change.

The **Just Trade and Corporate Accountability Cluster** has three main people's agenda and demands for the Parliamentarians to carry forward:

1. TRIPS Waiver for equal access of vaccines

The monopoly of Intellectual Property is stopping increased production of Covid-19 vaccines at the rate and amount needed to ensure fair global access to end the pandemic. COVID-19 medicines and vaccines are global public goods. We are committed to push our governments to agree to the TRIPS Waiver proposal submitted by India and South Africa in October 2020 at the WTO to allow all countries to choose not to provide and/or not to enforce IPR rules (patents, copyright and related

rights, industrial design, protection of undisclosed information) related to medicines, diagnostic tests, vaccines and other technologies related to COVID-19 during the pandemic, until 'global immunity' is achieved.

There is a particular urgency for the EU governments, the UK, Japan and Australia to move on this – as their opposition is a major obstacle towards achieving the TRIPS waiver and speeding up the global multilateral effort to save lives and reach universal access.

2. Alternative Trade Agenda & End to Corporate Impunity

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, neoliberal policies adopted over several decades put our economies towards poverty and gross inequality, heightened climate change and challenged democratic processes. We need to transform trade and industrial policies to put people and the planet first. Many northern countries are already putting forward several variations of Green New Deal (GND) proposals and green economy.

However, green economy will only push for new dominations and make southern countries experience "green colonialism". Nothing short of restructuring global trade relations and reversing the enormous imbalance of cultural, economic and political power between richer and poorer countries must be a top priority. International trade and investments also provide skewed privileges to multinational corporations. For this reason, we need to put primacy over people's rights and environmental protection over profits.

The destructive activities of transnational corporations (TNCs), either directly or indirectly, impact negatively on human rights and the daily lives of people globally. They are able to evade national jurisdictions because of their transnational character; the unprecedented economic, financial and political power they command; their economic and legal flexibility; and the complex structures they use to carry out their operations. To dismantle corporate power and end impunity we will continue the work towards the realisation of the UN Binding Treaty on TNCs and other business enterprises and strengthen the movement against corporate impunity

3. Establish a strong data protection from big tech data mining and monopoly

Negotiations on e-commerce, as a new issue in trade and investment negotiations, have extensive implications for equitable and sustainable development. The rise of 'big tech' is opening a new frontier in extractivism and the control of resources by big business. Data is the 'new oil', and online connections are the 'new gold'. This process not only threatens fundamental rights to privacy but, crucially, extends inequality between the global North and South, and entrenches corporate power across all aspects of our economic lives. Therefore:-

Our Key Recommendations and Demands for Change to ASEM Parliamentarians

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:

1. Support the TRIPS Waiver proposal in discussions at the WTO in order to ensure equitable access to vaccines, medicines, technology, and medical equipment needed by the world during the COVID-19;
2. Advocate for mandatory conduct of impact assessments (Social, Human Rights, sustainability) of trade agreements and review of existing trade agreements in the wake of new realities borne out of the Covid-19 pandemic;
3. Push for more democratic economic alternatives that will realise a new global trade model that puts people and the planet first.
4. Insist on a prior, independent assessment of the economic, social, and human rights impacts of trade and investment agreements in relation to national equitable and sustainable development that must inform the negotiations;
5. End the inclusion in trade and investment agreements, including in the Energy Charter Treaty, of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms that enable foreign direct investors to directly challenge public policy decisions of sovereign states and abuse their economic power to exert undue influence over democratic decision-making processes;
6. Take as a starting point a commons-based approach to the digital economy. Ensure the e-trade agenda - whether via the rules of the WTO or in any trade agreements between Europe and Asia - steers clear of any e-commerce provisions that limit the policy space of governments. In this context, it is urgent that a UN led initiative is pursued, following the WSIS (World Summit on Information Society) guidelines to ensure a democratic system for global digital governance. Use all available policy tools to break up the monopolies of big tech, and ensure that corporations active in the digital economy pay their fair share of taxes and respect Human Rights, labour and environmental law;
7. Commit to achieve an international legally binding instrument (UN Binding Treaty) on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights.

We pledge to support and work to take forward the People's Agenda for Trade Justice and Corporate Accountability

Food Sovereignty and Resources Justice – People’s Visions and Recommendations for change

Across Asia and Europe, land, water, seeds, forests and fisheries are being subjected to the pressures from neo-liberal globalisation policies - whether from industrial agriculture or blue carbon initiatives; the expansion of mining, energy and the extractive industries; mega infrastructure projects; real estate development; luxury tourist enclaves; or conservation and market-based climate mitigation strategies. These pressures, especially when bolstered by national laws that are geared towards profit rather than peoples’ rights, are having a corrosive effect on livelihoods, cultures, and ecologies. The struggles are rooted in fights for social justice, and against all forms of discrimination based on gender, class, ethnicity, caste and religion. In particular countries and regions, this has been accompanied by the rise of militarism and increased authoritarian repression of civil society organisations and environmental and human rights defenders.

Against this backdrop, communities in both Asia and Europe are mobilising to put forward real alternatives based on grass-roots organising and social movement action to further the vision of food and resource justice based on their right to choose their own self-determined ways of living. This is exemplified by, *inter alia*, the global movement for food sovereignty, alternatives to mining and anti-extractivism campaigns, protection of the commons, and the multiple ways in which small farmers, pastoralists, fishing communities, and indigenous peoples are making strategic use of national and international governance instruments to claim and defend their access to and control over territories and natural resources as matters of human rights.

It is our overall objective to strengthen these People’s Visions and empower social movement actors and civil society organisations across Europe and Asia to assert democratic control over the land and water-scapes upon which they depend. These Peoples’ Visions are based on a commitment to solidarity, social and economic justice, and concern for the most vulnerable and marginalised. This stands in contrast to the false solutions offered by techno-capitalism, rising authoritarian populism, sectarian and exclusionary nationalism as well as a multi-stakeholder approach that seeks to balance different interests, erase power differentials, while mitigating the worst effects of a “business as usual” approach. Truly elevating People’s Visions means prioritising the voices of those that are most affected in decision-making around food and natural resources in accordance with the important principle of “nothing about us, without us”.

Our Key Recommendations and Demands for Change to ASEM Parliamentarians

These recommendations build on AEPF Final Declarations and take their inspiration from key social movement documents such as those issued by the Nyéléni movement for Food Sovereignty and the International Peoples Conference on Mining (IPCM)

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:-

1. Ensure there are constitutional guarantees to support those most at risk from shrinking spaces for civil society, protecting, investigating and sanctioning to prevent attacks and threats against environmental and human rights defenders.
2. Hold governments accountable for their human rights violations also with regard to their extra-territorial human right obligations. To ensure this, there should be support for a strong binding treaty on transnational corporations.
3. Ensure strict laws and their enforcement so that companies along the whole supply chain, including downstream companies, abide by national and international human rights standards. There should be thorough and independent Environmental Impact Assessments, as well as Human Rights Impact Assessments of all development projects and investment programmes.
4. Oppose land, ocean, coastal and Small Island resource grabbing and respect the human rights of indigenous peoples, peasants, pastoralists and small-scale fishers to their lands, territories, fishing grounds and resources, utilising instruments such as the FAO Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines and the Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.
5. Ensure good faith negotiations with affected communities according to internationally agreed human rights instruments, using free prior and informed consent as a minimum standard specifically for indigenous peoples, and apply its principles to all communities.
6. In recognition of the critical role that rural and indigenous women have in both productive and reproductive work within the context of food sovereignty and resource justice, there should be meaningful, substantive participation of women in decision-making over land and territory.
7. Organise widespread campaigns to reduce overall consumption, which is driving resource extraction and, with the issue of climate change in mind, fossil fuels need to be left in the ground.
8. Promote and advance programmes for (re)distributive land reform, including land to the landless, and take measures to counter land concentration and land speculation.
9. Promote food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture and peasant agroecology by providing research, extension, credit, subsidies and market access support.

10. Support the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.
11. Protect our Commons against privatisation; Recognise, respect and protect ancestral domains and territories of indigenous peoples, as well as their indigenous governance systems.
12. Create common village level seed banks, to decrease dependency on commercial seeds, recognising the rights of peasants to freely use and exchange their own seeds. Maintain a diverse selection of native seeds to support agro-ecology and a re-generative environment.
13. Develop strong support systems for food producers and consumers that respect, protect and fulfil the Right to Food through for example:
 - a. Public food policies that buffer against price shocks and the impacts of international trade in food stuffs and agricultural commodities
 - b. Support for territorial markets and alternative food systems such as Community Supported Agriculture, Farmers Markets, and Community Gardens.
14. Organise widespread campaigns to reduce overall consumption, which is driving resource extraction and, with the issue of climate change in mind, fossil fuels need to be left in the ground

We pledge to support and work to take forward the People's Agenda for Food Sovereignty and Resources

Peace and Security – People’s Visions and Recommendations for change

At AEPF 12 in Ghent, Belgium, AEPF and peace movements made a number of recommendations to address peace and security issues to ASEM leaders and Parliamentarians. Since then, AEPF Peace-Security Working Group has been working with peace movements to launch and operate different campaigns in an effort to contribute to maintaining peace and security in Asia and Europe and the world as a whole.

There have been some positive changes with the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in January 2021 and signs of positive progress in the Korean Peninsula in 2018 and 2019.

However, the situation remains complicated. The wider geopolitics of growing political confrontation among major powers, especially between the US-China and US-Russia leading to the calculated policy of 'containment' heralds more militarism. The sharp deterioration in Sino-Indian relations following armed clashes along the border in mid-2020 heightens tensions in South Asia. Besides, conflicts and disputes in 'hot spots' including the South China Sea and East China Sea, the civil war in West Asia, the Rohingya crisis, ecological catastrophes in the Mekong Delta, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the military coup and repression that has followed in Myanmar threatens peace in the region and places people’s lives and livelihood at risks.

In such complicated contexts, we once again make

Our Key Recommendations and Demands for Change to ASEM Parliamentarians

We call on ASEM Parliamentarians to work with their governments to:-

Immediately sign, ratify and implement the TPNW; encourage the establishment of Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and promote the Korean peace process;

1. Take serious steps to cut military expenditures and announce yearly reductions and transfers of resources to social justice expenditure, especially in response to COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Build a new security architecture which moves from a politics of confrontation and sanctions to a politics of cooperation, dialogue, solidarity, peace and common security;
3. Stop military interventions and sanctions; put an end to the use or threat to use force and encourage peaceful resolution of disputes in major 'hot spots' including West Asia and the South China Sea with respect to international law;
4. Strengthen the role of international and regional institutions and reforms towards democracy and accountability;
5. Support the promotion of education for peace and human rights, develop peace advocacy based on nonviolence, human rights and secularism;

6. Facilitate dialogues and information sharing with all other stakeholders, including peoples' organisations and civil society organisations, especially grassroots movements for a peaceful Asia, Europe and the world as a whole;
7. Put the interest of people, the environment and climate before profit; respect international and regional agreements and strengthen cooperation in the protection of the environment for human security and sustainable development;
8. Take responsibility for assisting war victims, including the Hibakushas, victims of Agent Orange and chemical barrel bombs in their daily lives and their struggles for justice; handling of unexploded ordnance/mines, cleaning residues of Agent Orange and chemical weapons for reconstruction and socio-economic development;
9. Stop widespread violence against people; address the refugee crises based on humanitarian and human rights' principles and assist countries, populations and peoples through strategic partnering, association agreements, civil society/ people-to-people dialogue and direct aid.

We Pledge to support and work to take forward the People's Agenda for Peace and Security

ⁱ Worldwide, public finance institutions, such as public banks, have over US\$73 trillion in assets, which could be invested directly in public services and infrastructure.

ⁱⁱ The International Citizens' Debt Audit Network assembles networks and movements from 12 European countries in order to implement audits as a strategy to fight austerity measures.

ⁱⁱⁱ Such a mandate would first ensure that the central bank's power to issue public money would not create another financial bubble, but rather finance social and ecologically sound economic activities. Second, this would allow central banks to finally use their toolbox to help redirect private financial flows towards sustainable activities.

^{iv} The public buyout proposal could and should be part of the push for a Green New Deal in the United States, which is a set of measures that aims to address the climate crisis, racial injustice and economic inequality.

^v For example, the MOBA Housing Network in Central and South-Eastern Europe enables lower income populations to collectively access finance for cooperative housing solutions that are affordable, more stable and socially owned.