



## Green Mekong Region Network

We The Peoples in the UNFCCC Paris Agreement & UN 2030 Agenda:  
A Decade of Direct Action on the Ground & Diplomacy in the Global Arena for Earth Democracy

A human rights-based approach (HRBA) is essential for realizing the transformative vision of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and UN 2030 Agenda to ensure no one is left behind and furthest behind first guides programs, processes and projects around the planet. On the 80th anniversary of the UN Charter, the significance of civil society and states partnering will be shared providing examples of engagement rooted in universal values and unique visions for a bold future of human rights, climate justice, regenerative resilience and sustainable development.

This session will explore and examine decolonizing futures rooted in human rights. Examples of engagement from regions of the world will share stories of self-determination and sustainable development. We will share paths forward of effectively integrating rights principles—participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, and equality—into community projects, national action plans and global reviews from UPRs to VNRs. The session will share stories and strategies from case studies in Asia-Pacific region from the Mekong to Moananuiakea. It will emphasize how connecting the VNR process with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) under the Human Rights Council can strengthen accountability, coherence, and mutual reinforcement between the sustainable development and human rights agendas.

Drawing on country experiences and civil society practices, the session will highlight examples where UPR recommendations informed SDG priorities, where human rights institutions contributed to inclusive reporting integrating the peoples priorities. The discussion will aim to identify concrete pathways to institutionalize these linkages at national and regional levels, ensuring that rights-holders are at the center of SDG implementation.

### Guiding Questions:

- How can VNRs systematically incorporate human rights indicators and recommendations from the UPR?
- What institutional arrangements can bridge the two reporting frameworks?
- How can governments, UN agencies, and civil society collaborate to advance HRBA in UPR and VNR follow-up and review in Asia-Pacific from Mekong to Moananuiakea?

### Expected Outcome:

A set of actionable recommendations for communities to coordinate centers of compassion, courage, and creativity for resilient futures integrating human rights into VNRs, promote coherence with the UPR, and strengthen accountability and inclusiveness in SDG implementation.

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