

EVENT SNAPSHOT



UCCRTF Partner CSO Speaks with ADB President at 54th ADB Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors



Chris Morris

Head of NGO and Civil Society Center, ADB



Masatsugu Asakawa

President, Asian Development Bank



Syeda Munazzah Rubab

UCCRTF CSO Partner on Community-Led Projects

EVENT DETAILS

54th ADB Annual Meeting of Board of Governors: Meeting Between Civil Society Organizations and ADB Management

03 May 2021 |
02:00 - 03:00 PM |
Virtual Dialogue streamed on the ADB Annual Meeting website with simulcast on [Youtube](#) & [Facebook](#)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- Masatsugu Asakawa**, President, Asian Development Bank

MODERATOR:

- Chris Morris**, Principal Social Development Specialist, NGO and Civil Society Center, ADB

PANELISTS:

- Syeda Munazzah Rubab**, Project Officer, Promoting Urban Climate Change Resilience, Association for Gender Awareness and Human Empowerment Pakistan
- Hemantha Withanage**, International Convenor, NGO Forum on ADB
- Rayyan Hassan**, Executive Director, NGO Forum on ADB
- Katherine Custodio**, Executive Director, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Philippines

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE ACTION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa addressed civil society organization (CSO) and NGO representatives at the 54th ADB Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors' Civil Society Program held last 3 May 2021. AGAHE, a Pakistan-based CSO, was represented by Syeda Munazzah Rubab who highlighted the value of partnering with CSOs to achieve resilience at community level.

AGAHE is an implementation partner of Oxfam GB under [TA 9329](#) for a community-led project in Sialkot, Pakistan financed by the UCCRTF.

The CSOs were given the opportunity to pose questions to the ADB President regarding the role of NGOs and civil society in ADB's programs. Ms Rubab inquired about ADB's future strategy to strengthen climate resilience at the community level.

President Asakawa acknowledged that the challenges faced by the poor and vulnerable in the face of climate

change are among the driving forces behind ADB's \$80 billion target for climate financing by 2030, and the commitment that 75% of its total operations will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. He further elaborated that actions on building community resilience will be expanded through the recently launched Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) which, together with other development partners, will deliver climate adaptation interventions at the local level.

President Asakawa likewise responded to questions about ADB policy on fossil fuel financing, energy, safeguards and accountability mechanisms, and ADB's strategy and roadmap for biodiversity.

The session was organized by ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center which collaborates closely with the UCCRTF to promote meaningful civil society engagement in ADB operations.

“Despite the limitations posed by COVID-19, CSOs have maintained engagement in our operations and policy work over the last 12 months, both for tackling the crisis caused by COVID-19, and for addressing the long-term development agenda.”

– ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa
[Read the full speech](#)

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE:

- Build the resilience of poor and marginalized men and women**, for example by investing in climate smart agriculture that improves water management and harvesting techniques, and enabling farmers to use climate information for crop planning.
- Climate financing support must reach the poor, especially women**, for example through conditional cash transfer and targeted microfinance. Transform

the way investments are made by engaging more directly with local communities.

- Localizing governance and decision making processes to also address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by continuing to work with local governments to build their capacity and by enabling citizens to monitor development that meet their needs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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UCCRTF FINANCING PARTNERS

