



Social Watch Philippines (SWP), with the support from Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) and Action for Sustainable Development,

organized a two-session consultations on June 11 and 13, 2019 on the Civil Society Spotlight Report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is SWP's response for the need to surface the marginalized sectors' perspectives and inputs to the ongoing Philippine government review on implementation challenges, proposed solutions, and policy recommendations in the country's efforts to achieve the SDGs through the Civil Society Spotlight Report. The report shall also serve as a tool to raise awareness and enhance the marginalized sectors' capacity to exercise active citizenship and promote people's right to full participation in governance in national and global matters in relation to the SDGs.

The first session on June 11, discussed key concerns of the Philippines on climate change, employment, economic growth and inequalities, and on quality of education. The discussion on climate crisis touched on the global perspective and on how the system and bureaucracy contributed to the worsening situation of the environment. Recommendations to contribute in reducing the effects of climate change were also raised.



Other discussions highlighted different perspectives in the analysis of inequalities, employment situation and economic growth. Being one of the most important pre-requisites in achieving the development goals in the country, the discussion on education mostly concentrated on how it can be more accessible to the marginalized sectors.



The second session discussion on June 13 focused on partnerships and on peace and justice. The discussion on partnerships started with the analysis of the current relationship of the Philippines towards other countries. The increasing influence and penetration of other nations in our market which hampers our local industries was highlighted. The

discussions on injustices and human rights abuses in the country were echoed by the participants as well as the needs of the sector they each represent to ensure that these systematic injustices can be addressed and not further marginalize the vulnerable sectors.

Moreover, the participants were able to identify similar problems which constrain institutions and civil societies from achieving the SDGs - one of these is the issue on the lack of coherent government data. The group calls for consistent and reliable data from the government through the cooperation and cross-checking of data of the different



government agencies. The participants also strongly recommend that there should be disaggregated data for each of the different sectors, on the premise that the groups in the country are not equally situated which means that there should be a different targetive approach for each group. Other key recommendations include the review on the frameworks used in addressing the economic situation, education system and financial flows of the country. The implications of these frameworks to the citizens should be included and assessed. The group also advocates for larger investments and direct solutions on the issue of inequality and accessibility. Lastly, the participants recommend the strengthening of affirmative action as a means in providing opportunities in education and employment; this is for individuals who lack the initial capacity to enter school or to compete in the market.

The discussions had not only showcased the disparities in the country but had also highlighted how these issues are not directly addressed. These SDGs and government actions can shape the way of life among Filipinos, which is why it is important to have these kinds of activities which promote participation and inclusion of the different sectors. This encourages every individual to take part and create solutions which are also sensitive to the circumstances of other sectors- a way to achieve forms of development which are appropriate and reflective of the voices of different groups.



Jonero Dacula of SWP Youth and PUP SPEAK talks about the safety of students on the prevalent issue of red-tagging



Ms. Chy recommends the appropriate form of development for indigenous groups



Social Watch Philippines Convenor Rene Raya comments on the issue of climate crisis in the country