
Terms of Reference

The 9th AROSP biennial meeting

AROSP2026 biennial meeting

23-26 Oct 2026

Organized by AROSP biennial preparation working group (AROSP-BPWG)

1. Background

The Asian Roundtable on Social Protection (AROSP), established in 2009, is a network of grassroots workers' organisations, trade unions, NGOs, and scholars in Asia that work on the issues of formal and informal workers. AROSP serves as a platform to provide mutual help, facilitate information sharing, and help organisations build their understanding on social protection.

In the past meetings of the AROSP network, it carried the following agenda: (i) basic principles of comprehensive social security (2009); (ii) Asian minima in practice (2010); (iii) social assistance and minimum wage (2011); (iv) Sharpening labour's role in advancing social protection for all in Asia (2013); (v) Forging People's Unity towards Social Transformation and Economic Emancipation (2016); and (vi) Understanding Social Protection Trajectories in Asia for Building Capacity of the Marginalised Workers (2018).

In 2020, due to the COVID19 situation, we could not organise 7th AROSP biennial meeting. Instead, several AROSP members came up with research initiatives to quickly review their country i) COVID-19 impact on workers livelihood (HNN Nepal, CWE India, LIGHT Vietnam, IDEA Cambodia); and ii) COVID-19 responsive grassroots modalities (JAKERNAS Indonesia, CDI Vietnam), which were discussed and shared with AROSP and others through two sub regional AROSP webinars in 2021. During 2020-2021, several webinars at sub regional and international levels were jointly organised by AROSP members or between AROSP and other networks.

The 7th AROSP biennial meeting in 2022 includes 2 sessions. The virtual session focused on reviewing the AROSP work over the last 5 years, reviewing the context, further developing AROSP as a structured network of MWOs pushing for transformative social protection, and developing AROSP strategy for next 5 years 2022-2026 and an action plan for 2022. The physical session finalised and launched the AROSP working paper, and the AROSP strategy for next 5 years 2022-2026, and discussed the AROSP 2022 work plan.

In the 8th AROSP biennial meeting, jointly organized by the AROSP-CT plus during 1-3 April, 2024 in BKK, Thailand, AROSP officially welcomed the new members, further institutionalized

the network with a newly elected Steering Committee of 9 members representing SA, SEA, SA sub region and regional/international groups, shared and planned on advocacy and campaign especially on maternity protection in the region with a strategic plan for 2024-2026 with clear objectives, outcomes and activities to better guide the AROSP collaboration.

In 2025, AROSP conducted an evaluation to review AROSP achievements, strengths, weaknesses, and future directions, which provided inputs especially for the capacity building part of the 2026 Biennial meeting (details: [AROSP Evaluation 2025.docx](#))

An online consultation on AROSP biennial meeting 2026 contents and methods was conducted during May 2026 (annex 1)

2. Specific Objective:

- 1) To get to know and better understand each other (between existing and new members)
- 2) To strengthen AROSP members' knowledge and capacity through sharing and training regarding social dialogues, climate justice, digital campaigning, financing on social protection, community led social protection practices for grassroots people (...)
- 3) To promote AROSP members leadership especially youth leadership and network for universal social protection
- 4) To build spirit and institutionalization of collective care for AROSP network
- 5) To review the AROSP 2026 strategic plan and update 2027-2028 Strategic Plan
- 6) To elect the AROSP steering committee, sub regional focal points and approval of new membership
- 7) To strengthen collaboration between AROSP with other regional platforms (APF, ect)

3. Venue: Philippines

Place: at the same location of APF2026, Quezon city

Time: 23-26 October 2026

Hybrid?

4. Local organizer: Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR)

5. Participants:

all members including new members. AMRC will cover the cost of participants. AROSP members can send more participants if they can cover the travel cost.

Criteria for selecting participants if the budget is not enough:

- At least 1 from 1 country
- prioritized for the members paying fee
- Member not able paying fee from the country AROSP have a few members
- Campaign and story award winners
- members actively participated in the AROSP activities
- New members and potential and committed organisation for AROSP network

6. Methods:

Sub working groups to develop Concept note for activities:

	topic	lead	members
	the session on training and thematic discussions		
1	Well-being and Sustainable Activism training zero draft CN-Well-being and Sustainable Activism SC Plus discussed 21/9	Mabel,	Phoebe So, ThuHa
2	Youth initiative: Addressing Social Protection Gaps for Minority and Marginalized Zero draft CN-Youth initiative	Nina	Youth group, Ikhsan (KPRI)
3	Climate Justice training - including 2 minutes solidarity for Climate Justice to Nepal zero draft CN-Climate Justice Training SC Plus discussed 21/9	Nina	LJ, Oluwatoyin, Tilak, irfan
4	social dialogue training/ sharing experiences regional and country levels Draft 1 CN-Social Dialogue SC Plus discussed 14/9	Satro	Boonsom, ThuHa
5	community led social protection practices for grassroots people (testimonies):	Om	LJ

	Zero draft CN-Community led SP practices SC Plus discussed 31/8		
6	Tax justice and financing on social protection (refresher after WIEGO training last time): combined in the APF engagement	Raquel	Vijaya, Aang
	Internal management		
1	get to know and better understand each other		
2	Country sharing and discussion on fostering country collaboration: Activity CN- Country sharing SC Plus discussed 28/9	Irfan	Om, Sastro
3	Introduction and approval of new members zero draft CN-Introduction and approval of new members SC Plus discussed 21/9	Suntare e	Thuha helps to document and update the applied and newly confirmed members
4	AROSP steering committee election: CN-Election SC Plus discussed 7/9	Vijaya	Mabel (ThuHa sends 2024 preparation)
5	membership fee's usage principles - fee collection		
6	To review the AROSP 2026 strategic plan and update 2027-2028 Strategic Plan	Manjula	Raquel, Thuha helps to draft a CN
7	Award ceremony: 1. Excellent Campaigners for the 1 million signatures for financing universal social protection 2. Writer of grassroots modalities CN-Award Ceremony SC Plus discussed 24/8	ThuHa,	Nina
8	Solidarity dinner		

	Others:		
1	Apo memory: - Legacy Speech and sharing - photos exhibition of Apo activities and intervention in AROSP	Saki	Mabel helps to draft a brief on how Apo contribute to SP
2	APF engagement 27-28 Oct: CN- APF2026 engagement SC Plus discussed 14/9	ThuHa,	Raquel, Sastro, Vijaya, Aang

7. Contents

- **training and thematic discussions**
- Country sharing: can include in the Country sharing a discussion on fostering country collaboration; can be selective sharing from each sub region (one from SA, SEA, EA), or one per country. Also considering a comparative report of the SA SP country snapshots led by Vijaya. And an overview and comparative report of the SEA SP country snapshots led by Aura WIEGO.
- Internal management: election, strategy review, membership fee's usage principles, simplification of new members approval process

8. Draft Agenda:

23 Oct:

getting to know and better understanding each other

Apo memory (45')

Introduction and approval of new members (1 hour)

fee collection

Well-being and Sustainable Activism training

24 Oct:

social dialogue

Youth initiative

community led social protection practices for grassroots people

Award Ceremony

Solidarity Dinner

25 Oct

Country sharing and discussion on fostering country collaboration

Climate Justice training: 2 minutes solidarity for Climate Justice to Nepal

26 Oct

AROSP steering committee election

Membership rule: If applicants from non-Asia regions?

membership fee's usage rules

Announce the election result and handover

Review AROSP 2026 strategic plan and update 2027-2028 Strategic Plan

Annex 1- consultation on AROSP biennial meeting 2026 contents and methods

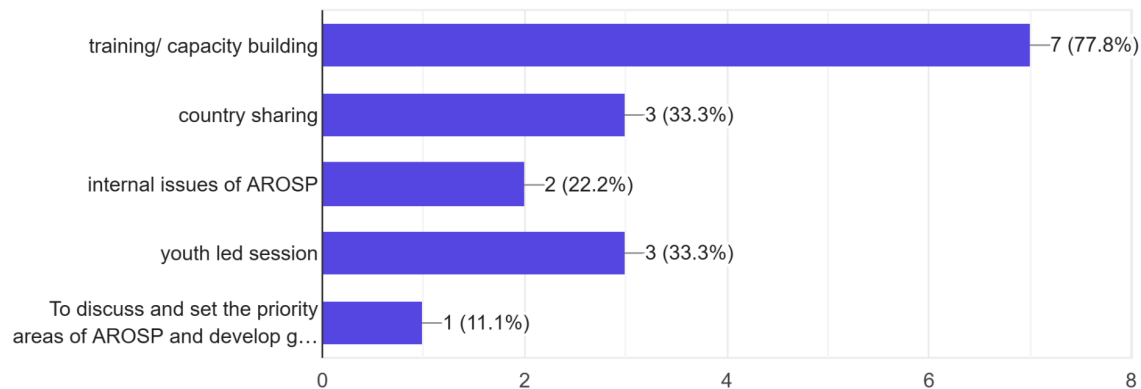
What are your expectations from the upcoming AROSP Biennial Meeting?⁹ responses

- I wish to delete most of my weaknesses towards understanding the concurrent issues and to strengthen my delivery capacity and to learn at least one lesson from each session of the meeting and lastly but not least, I am expecting to learn about the digitalization of policy advocacy campaign.
- I would like to enhance my capacity and expertise to help strengthen advocacy efforts for social protection and social security for poor and marginalized people.

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- I want learn more **influencing methods of social protection advocacy in this digital world.**
 - Hope AROSP get more strengthening in the coming period
 - My expectations from the upcoming AROSP Biennial Meeting are to gain **new knowledge**, build meaningful connections with participants from different countries, share experiences and best practices, learn about regional challenges and solutions, and strengthen cooperation for future development and peace initiatives.
 - The meeting should be **interactive**, and by the end of the session, we should agree on a process for developing a new proposal as a network for potential donors.
 - As it would be my first meeting, so I expect to learn, interact, discuss and engage more closely with AROSP members and the secretariat.
 - know more about **mission and the best practice of other members**
 - **more members take leadership in organising/ facilitating/ note taking**

Which sessions should be prioritized in the Biennial Meeting?

9 responses

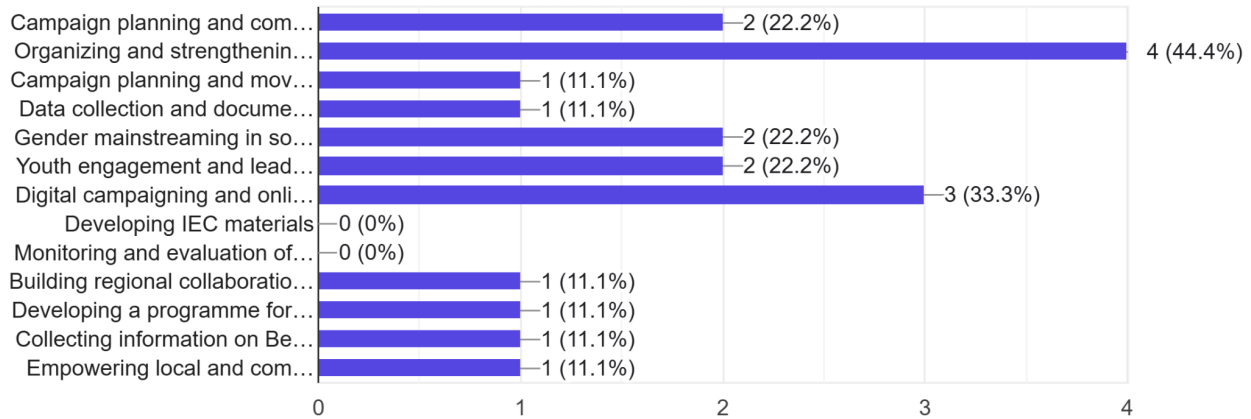


What capacities should the training/ capacity building session prioritize to provide in the AROSP biennial meeting?

- **Organizing and strengthening informal workers' groups**
- **Digital campaigning and online advocacy tools**
- Campaign planning and communication
- Building regional collaboration and coalition networks
- Developing a programme for a series of short virtual training sessions
- Collecting information on Best Practices in Social Protection in Asia

What capacities should the training/ capacity building session prioritize to provide in the AROSP biennial meeting? pls select 2 priorities maximum

9 responses

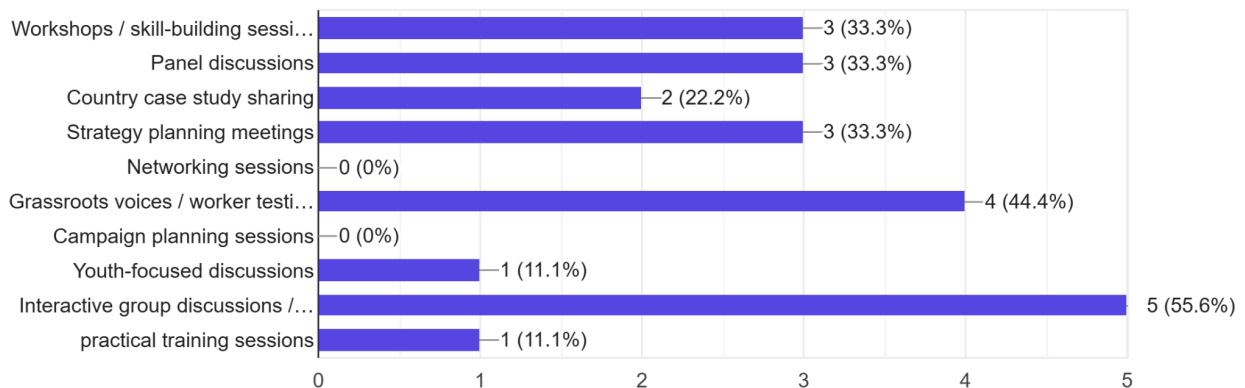


What type of sessions would you prefer during the Biennial Meeting?

- **Interactive group discussions / breakout sessions**
- **Grassroots voices / worker testimonies**
- Workshops / skill-building sessions
- Panel discussions
- Strategy planning meetings

What type of sessions would you prefer during the Biennial Meeting? Pls select 2 maximum

9 responses



In the country sharing session, What update/ hot issues in your country would you like to share with others in 5 minutes time? 9 responses

- The story behind the best we did, the experiences we learnt from the worst we did and the ones which we couldn't do at all.
- "Recently, many garment workers have been losing their jobs. Most of these workers are between 35 and 40 years old. When they lose their jobs at this stage of their lives, it becomes very difficult for them to find new employment elsewhere. They also usually do not have enough savings or capital to start a business. As a result, supporting their families becomes a serious challenge. I would like to draw attention to this issue and emphasize the need for social protection and support measures for these workers."
- I want to share the current situation faced by the grass-root women workers particularly related to social protection and livelihood.
- Dithva Cyclone recovery, the Middle East war affected the economic development. There is no escape except getting further into the debt trap.
- I would like to share about the current economic recovery in Sri Lanka, tourism growth, education developments, and how young people are contributing to social change and community projects. I would also mention the importance of unity and resilience after recent challenges.
- New Labour Laws, the Situation of Workers' Rights, and Their Overall Implementation
- The current challenges in the unorganised sector, the amended laws, etc
- potential of philanthropy for bridging social protection gap

In the country sharing session, What would you like to hear from other countries' sharing? 9 responses

- The struggles they did in the process, the ways how they reached the people live in bottom and their strategy how they convert the voices of the poor into their strength.
- "I would be interested to learn about the social protection and social security measures available in their country, especially those designed for workers."
- The best ways that the other organisations applied to address the issues of grass-root women workers.
- Social Protection , Informal workers matters and Asia Pacific TU joint work.

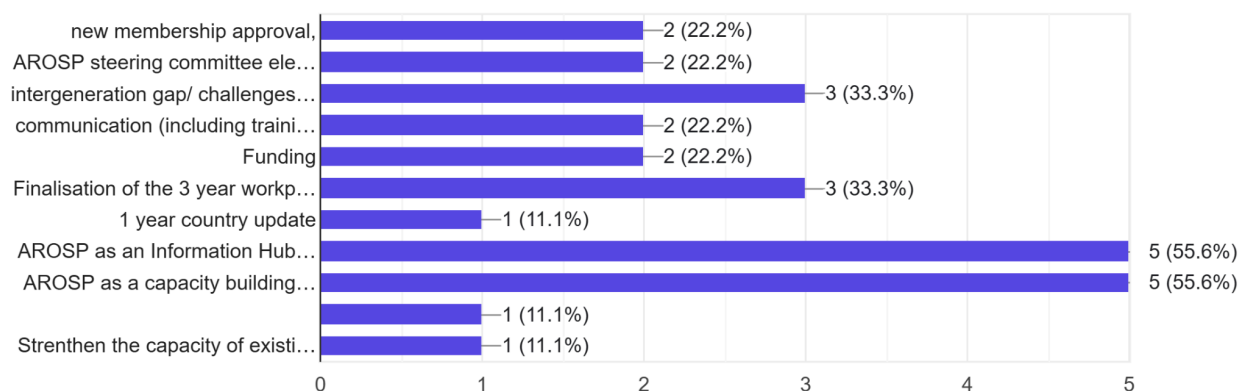
- I would like to hear about their **education systems, youth empowerment programs**, solutions for economic challenges, cultural values, and how they are building peace and sustainability in their countries.
- I would like to hear about **successful strategies, challenges, lessons learned, and innovative approaches** used by other countries to strengthen social protection and workers' rights.
- Their issues and challenges and any good practices

What contents should be prioritized in the AROSP internal session?

- **AROSP as an Information Hub of Social Protection Knowledge**
- **AROSP as a capacity building agency for social protection campaign**
- intergeneration gap/ challenges, youth empowerment;
- Finalisation of the 3 year workplan,

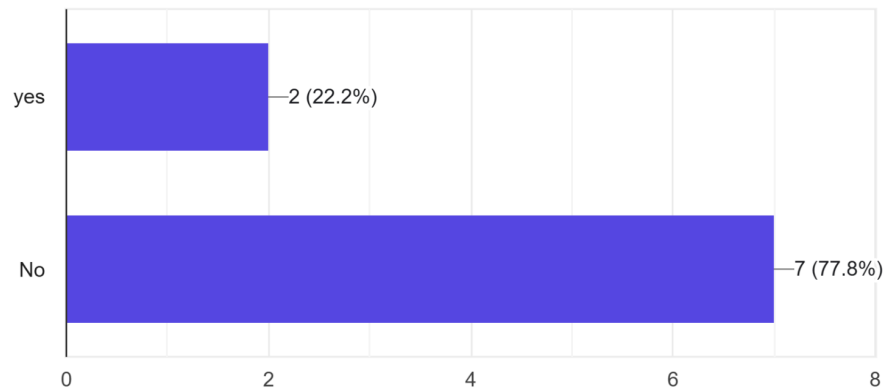
What contents should be prioritized in the AROSP internal session? pls select 3 maximum

9 responses



Is your organisation willing to cover the travel cost for 1 extra participant (prioritising youth)?

9 responses

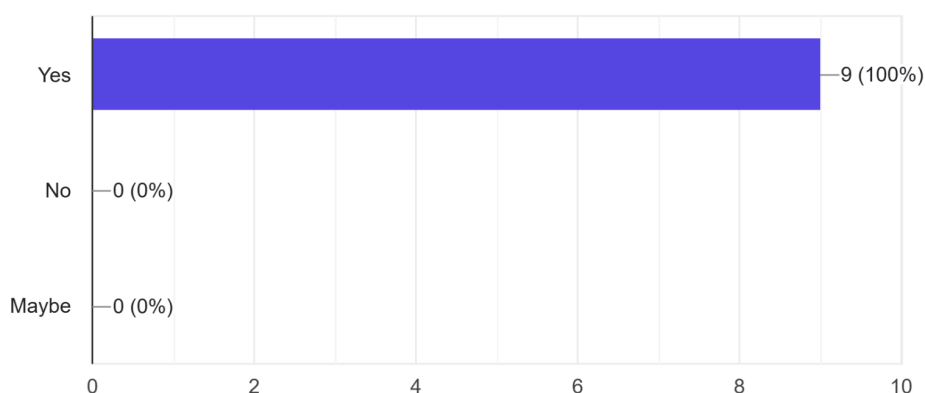


How can AROSP strengthen collaboration among members? 9 responses

- In order to strengthen the collaboration with its members, AROSP can focus to address and/or raise specific and emerging social protection issues of particular country/members.
- By supporting one another's activities and sharing experiences and knowledge among members.
- AROSP can create platforms at continental, Sub-regional and country level to gather, discuss, share, learn and strengthen the solidarity.
- Ensure every member understands the primary mission
- Improve group communication activities
- Open discussion, giving and receiving feedback as a tool for keeping unity of the organization.
- Trust members to make decisions within their specific areas of expertise.
- AROSP can strengthen collaboration among members by creating regular communication platforms, organizing joint projects and training programs, encouraging youth and cultural exchanges, sharing resources and best practices, and building stronger networks through both online and in-person meetings.
- AROSP can strengthen collaboration by facilitating regular communication, knowledge sharing, joint advocacy initiatives, and collaborative fundraising efforts among members
- Through strategic interventions and addressing specific issues through campaigns
- Sharing session
- more working groups to promote collaboration and leadership

Would you be interested in contributing to the preparation or facilitation of the Biennial Meeting?

9 responses



how would you like to contribute?

- I will be part of country sharing with at least two testimonies of grass-root women workers based on their pain and gain.
- Provided that the necessary funding is available, I would be able to support the collection of information and the preparation of a report.
- I can contribute with collecting case stories and evidences of grass-root cases and present in the meeting.
- I can share my experience
- I suggest including more interactive discussions, cultural exchange activities, and networking opportunities among participants. I would like to contribute by actively sharing ideas, participating in discussions, and representing my country's experiences and perspectives.
- Presentation
- I want to contribute by sharing my country's issues and challenges
- Planning to participate
- facilitating the participatory preparation process and moderate some sections of the biennial meeting

Do you have any additional suggestions for the Biennial Meeting? 8 responses

- I wish AROSP make a check list effectiveness of organisational level and country level in terms of the member of AROSP.
- Member organizations should have opportunities to share experiences, knowledge, and best practices among themselves.

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- Lets make our meeting fully focus on the agreed agenda only and stricly follow the meeting rules by every one.
 - It is good to add intercultural session

Irfan, Tharushi, Tilak, Om, Manjula, Eri, Thuha, Tapan, Raquel

Manjula, Tapan org can cover travel for 1 extra participant (young)