



Call for Session Proposals: Civil Society Program (CSP) ADB's 58th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors 4–7 May 2025, Milan, Italy

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s 2025 Annual Meeting takes place in Milan, Italy [Milan 2025 | Asian Development Bank](#). The overall theme of the AM 2025 is “**Sharing Experience, Building Tomorrow**” and will revolve around the following focus areas:

- **Digital Transformation** – Digital technologies are transforming economies and societies rapidly changing products, services, business models, and industries. While digital transformation has great potential for advancing the development agenda and accelerating climate action for our DMCs, it also carries with it some downsides.
- **Frontiers of Green Transition**—Shifting to a low-carbon future is complex and challenging, but essential to our survival on this planet. The frontiers where trade-offs and hard choices must be made include hard-to-abate industries, transition challenges in the workforce, unproven technologies, the need for critical minerals, and energy justice.
- **Innovation for Adaptation**—The impacts of climate change, from extreme heat, rising sea levels, water shortages, and extreme weather conditions, are reversing hard won development gains. Building resilience to climate change will require developing new technologies, practices, and strategies, often across borders through regionally relevant solutions.

2. ADB welcomes the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in its annual meeting through the Civil Society Program (CSP), a venue for CSOs to dialogue with ADB and government leaders of its developing member countries on key development topics. Consistent with Strategy 2030, ADB's long-term strategy, ADB aims to strengthen collaboration with CSOs and commits to “*work with CSOs to tap their unique strengths, such as their local presence and specialized knowledge. It will explore opportunities to increase their involvement in the design and implementation of projects supported by ADB. Particular focus will be on operations that use grassroots participatory approaches to target the poor and vulnerable groups, mobilize women and young people, and monitor project activities and outputs. ADB will also seek their inputs and advice on the review of major ADB policies.*”¹

3. The Civil Society Program aligns with this year's 58th Annual Meeting theme and focus areas and aims to reflect on ADB-CSO engagement in the past years, as well as envisioning the future of their collaboration in support of its [Strategy 2030](#), ADB's long-term corporate strategy.

4. CSOs, both operationally-focused and advocacy organizations, currently engage with ADB across several areas, including: (1) stakeholder engagement throughout project design, (2) implementation of components of ADB-supported projects, particularly in the delivery of social services, (3) monitoring and evaluation, and (4) policy design and review, particularly in sectors and themes such as Social Development,

¹ Paragraph 108 on ‘Strengthening Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations’ of the [ADB's Strategy 2030](#) describes ADB's direction toward increasing engagement with CSOs in its operations.

Governance, Gender, Safeguards, and others. CSOs also work with ADB through partnerships for knowledge generation and sharing, as well as in the review and updating of its institutional policies.

5. The 58th AM Civil Society Program will kick off with the meeting between CSOs and the ADB President, followed by a series of policy discussions and knowledge sharing events in line with this year's theme. While this year's Annual Meeting events are in-person, ADB will continue to observe health and travel guidelines as provided by the host country.

II. GUIDE TO SUBMITTING SESSION PROPOSALS

6. CSOs, including youth-led organizations, are invited to submit session proposals for the 58th Annual Meeting - Civil Society Program using the Session Design Template in Part III. CSOs should consider the following in designing their session:

- (i) Clarify alignment to this year's Annual Meeting theme and any of the focus areas;
- (ii) Clarify CSO perspectives on this theme and any of the focus areas, particularly from the perspectives of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Offer solutions and/or meaningful ADB-CSO engagement opportunities in any of these areas;
- (iii) Establish quality and expertise of the panel of speakers and demonstrated capacity to deliver a high-quality session, e.g., confirmation of the panel of speakers, diversity in countries represented, as well as in gender and age of speakers;
- (iv) Establish ability to draw from a wide number of Annual Meeting attendees and organizations;
- (v) The session should demonstrate collaboration with other CSOs or development partners. It should not be organized by or feature speakers from one organization only;
- (vi) It is required that the session includes at least one speaker under age 35 as part of the panel, to ensure voice and perspectives of the youth on the proposed topic;
- (vii) It is encouraged that the session includes a speaker from ADB as part of the panel. The proposal should nominate an ADB management or staff member to be part of the panel. ADB will assist proponent organizations in identifying an appropriate member from ADB to serve as speaker for the panel.
- (viii) This year, the Civil Society Program aims to include two sessions specifically on the following:
 - a. A session for CSOs working in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations (FCAS) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Asia and the Pacific region [ADB's Work in FCAS and SIDS | Asian Development Bank](#) on the theme and any of the focus areas above; and
 - b. A youth-led CSO session on youth transitions into the labor market, on the theme and any of the focus areas above.

We welcome session proposals that will respond to this specific call, particularly those organized in collaboration with other CSOs, the private sector or international institutions.

7. Successful CSO proponents will be provided with a travel subsidy for three (3) speakers. Selected CSO organizers will prepare key highlights of their session within 48 hours after it is completed (maximum 320 words). The key highlights will form part of the overall 58th Annual Meeting documentation of events.

8. ADB shall review the session proposal based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Rating
1. Relevance. Content features innovation and creativity and is aligned to 58 th Annual Meeting theme and to any of the focus areas.	35
2. Quality and diversity of speakers. Speakers are knowledgeable and authoritative on the subject and represent diversity in terms of gender and country experiences. At least 1 youth speaker is included on the panel.	35
3. Demonstrated capacity to deliver a high-quality session. Proposal is well-written and provides required information, including profiles of speakers. Most speakers have confirmed to participate.	30
TOTAL	100

9. Interested CSOs, including youth-led organizations, are requested to submit session proposals using the templates provided in the Annexes, no longer than two pages, excluding attachments. Annex 2 should include a list of tentative speakers for the session. CSOs are asked to submit their proposals by email to civilsociety@adb.org on or before **15 January 2025, 11:59 PM Manila time (GMT+8)**. Please indicate in the subject line: "58th ADB Annual Meeting Milan - Civil Society Program Session Proposal."

III. SESSION DESIGN TEMPLATE

To propose a session for the Civil Society Program, please fill-out this session design template (limit response to maximum of 2 pages using Arial 11, excluding attachments):

Civil Society Program
ADB's 58TH Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors
 4 – 7 May 2025, Milan, Italy

Proposed Title of the Session:	
Name of Proponent CSO, Office Address and Organizational email:	
Contact Person, Title/Position and email:	
Objectives of the Session:	At the end of the session, what do you want the audience to learn or gain from it? State briefly and in measurable terms.
Content	a. Describe the topic and its relevance to the 58 th ADB Annual Meeting theme on <i>Sharing Experiences, Building Tomorrow and any of the focus areas</i> as described in Section 1. Describe how considerations in part 6 were included in the session design.
	b. Describe session format / methodology. We encourage you to employ interactive techniques (interview format, TED-style Talks or other creative forms), your speakers to be concise and brief, and to allocate more time for Q&A or interacting with the audience.

References	<i>Add research, articles, publications, or presentation materials done by the proponent or partner organizations related to the topic, if any, as links or file attachments (max 3 attachments) to support the review of the session proposal.</i>	
Suggested CSO Session Program/Agenda (Fill out this section)		
Time slot (Start =00:00 End = 01:30)	Topic/Activity	Name of Speaker
00:00 to 00:05	<i>Moderator introduces session and its objectives (Indicate session objectives here):</i>	<i>Indicate name, title and organization of Moderator</i>
00:05 to 00:10	<i>Moderator introduces speakers</i>	
00:10 to 00:45	<i>(Describe the interactive approach to be used. Indicate name of speakers and their respective topics. Encourage speakers to be brief and concise. One speaker must be from the youth sector. One speaker may be from ADB management or staff.) Speaker 01 (Indicate topic) Speaker 02 (Indicate topic) Speaker 03 (Indicate topic)</i>	<i>Indicate name of speakers</i>
00:45 – 01:20	<i>Q&A (Or describe interactive methodology. Allocate more time for interaction with the audience).</i>	
01:20 - 01:30 END	<i>Moderator gives a synthesis/summary of key points raised and closes the session</i>	
Post session	<i>CSO submits highlights of the session within 48 hours from the conduct of the event (max 320 words).</i>	

Attachment 1
CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM
58TH ADB Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors
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Speakers' Profiles

(Please inform invited speaker/s that the submitted profiles may be used for promotional activities for the event. Attach a photo; use maximum 1-page per speaker. Add more Speaker profiles as needed).

	SPEAKER-01 Name of Speaker: Position: Organization: Email: Nationality:
Short bio of speaker for web sharing (max 80 words) 	
Speaking Engagement History <i>Indicate the speaker's previous speaking experiences related to the topic (max 3 events).</i>	<i>Title of Speech:</i> <i>Name of Event:</i> <i>Location:</i> <i>Date:</i> <i>Web link to speech or event:</i>
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	<i>Title of Speech:</i> <i>Name of Event:</i> <i>Location:</i> <i>Date:</i> <i>Web link to speech or event:</i>

Submit the session design and profiles of the speakers on or before 11:59 p.m. Manila time (GMT+8) of 15 January 2025 to civilsociety@adb.org, with the subject title, "58th ADB Annual Meeting Milan - Civil Society Program Session Proposal".