

Name of the Session	[1B_SDGs/Community] <b>Aiming for 2030: Citizen and Community-Led Social Change and Transformation</b> -Fostering the Potentials of Civil Society (CSO) by Examining Local SDGs Case Studies and KANSAI-SDGs Civic Agenda-
Name of the Document	Recommendations for Promoting Proactive Civic Participation in the Policy-Making Process -Toward Achieving SDGs by 2030-
Relevant C20 Agenda	1. Anti-Corruption 2. Education ③ Environment, Climate and Energy ④ Gender 5. Global Health 6. Infrastructure 7. International Financial Architecture ⑧ Labor, Business and Human Rights ⑨ Local2Global 10. Trade and investment [Circle the one(s) that is/are relevant.]
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Civil society, as well as public and private sector, establish an equitable partnership in order to take action together and achieve SDGs</li> <li>➤ Citizens and civil society participate proactively in the policy-making process</li> <li>➤ Citizens and civil society deepen their understanding of societal issues as they engage themselves with the policy-making process</li> </ul>
Background and Current Situation	Establishment of SDGs triggered a range of discussions both at the global and local level that involved cross-sectoral issues. Subsequently, the significance of collaborative action beyond sectors and generations became widely recognized. Nevertheless, the agency of individual citizens towards social actions has not met a widespread adoption/engagement yet among the general public. It is, thus, imperative that we foster not only the notion of “citizenship” in civil society but also the necessary attitude among citizens so that society in which “no one will be left behind” will come to fruition. Similarly, it is indispensable that society as a whole listen to the voices of the citizens and address the issues and concerns that are raised.
Issues and Points of Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The image of a better future for the local and global society which is presented by the principles and frameworks of SDGs is not yet fully grasped by citizens. As a result, citizens do not necessarily have a drive to “take part in the change”. This would be an obstacle to motivate citizens' commitment and participation for achieving SDGs goals.</li> <li>2. Civic space in Japan needs to improve and expand. This will not be achieved without the willingness of citizens to participate in the decision-making process and cultivating the notion of citizenship.</li> <li>3. The Kansai region has worked toward accomplishing SDGs through projects that were developed under the framework of Citizens' Forum for Kansai SDGs Agenda. The region should continue its endeavors to expand civic space throughout Japan and build the foundation for a more mature democratic society by disseminating its activities, collaborating with similar frameworks in different regions. This endeavor would also benefit for promoting the SDGs regional agenda to those that have not drafted any.</li> </ol>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To community members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Every individual needs to be aware that citizens are the primary agents of democracy and politics impacts us all. In addition, instead of passively accepting policy decisions that are made, citizens need to proactively engage themselves with the policy-making process in order to achieve SDGs and demonstrate consciousness as well as action to improve society.</li> <li>– It is expected that citizens become interested and will deepen their understanding of social issues in order to freely express their own ideas and stances. Through such learning experiences, citizens will awaken to their agency within SDGs, which work towards a society that leaves no one behind.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ To civil society organizations (including NGOs and NPOs) in Osaka and the greater Kansai region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Civil society is expected to participate in the policy-making process with a sense of ownership. It is necessary to utilize every social, cultural, and human capital that civil society has to offer in order to realize a positive social change and a better social environment, in which every individual is allowed to raise his or her voice.</li> <li>– We must pursue the ongoing effort to formulate a local agenda, including Citizens' Forum for Kansai SDGs Agenda, as it provides an arena for every citizen to safely raise his or her voice. In the meantime, it will be ideal that such projects spread further into regions that have not drafted their own agenda and ensure a gradual and flexible connection within civil society. This, in turn, should construct a foundation that allows</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>citizens to participate in policy-making that pertains to SDGs and the way to achieve them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To local administrations and businesses in Osaka and the greater Kansai region</li> <li>– Local administrations and businesses need to be accountable for the societal issues raised by the active civic participation and engage with the solutions these movements put forward. Likewise, they need to understand that opening up to diverse ideas and opinions carried by the civil society is crucial in forming an inclusive society, especially for its most marginalized and vulnerable members.</li> <li>– Local administrations and businesses need to view civil society as an equitable partner in “improving society”, and strive for building a favorable relationship. In particular, it is important that they listen sincerely to the voices of civil society and reflect them in policies and guidelines they formulate in light of realizing SDGs.</li> <li>– It is also expected that local administrations and businesses deliberate and discuss the issues that civil society raises as well as potential solutions together, and contribute to make better environment that is conducive to the betterment of society.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key Contributors</p>	<p>Chair and Vice Chair of Citizens' Forum for Kansai SDGs Agenda and Secretariat of Citizens' Forum for Kansai SDGs Agenda.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Proponents</p>	<p>Several organizations, which include but are not limited to Kansai NGO Council, Sapporo Freedom School 'YU', CODE(Citizens toward Overseas Disaster Emergency ), Kodomo-no-Sato, Green Earth Network, Japan Asian Association &amp; Asian Friendship Society (JAFS), Hundred-Labo Co., Ltd., Students for a Free Tibet Japan Mie chapter, Terra Renaissance, individuals proponents 10people, anonymous proponent 1 person (as of June 21, 2019)</p>