

Asia-Pacific Declaration on Social Enterprise and Impact Investment

We,

- *the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Secretariat (ESCAP)*
- *Members of the Board of Directors of the Social Enterprise World Forum (SEWF C.I.C.)*
- *Representatives of The Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG)*
- *Representatives of the British Council*
- *Representatives of the Global Social Entrepreneurship Network (GSEN)*
- *Representatives of the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN)*
- *Representatives of the Ākina Foundation,*
- *Representatives of observer organisations whose work fosters the growth of social enterprise and impact investment*

assembled at the Social Enterprise and Impact Investment Policy Dialogue held in Christchurch, New Zealand on 28 September 2017 in the presence of ministers, cabinet secretaries, governors and government officials and advisors from the following countries:

Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Niue, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

Recalling our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda),

Acknowledging that the three dimensions of sustainable development embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – economic, social and environmental – underpin the transition to a sustainable future,

Re-affirming our intention to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities,

Further recalling that the SDGs are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike, and are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Acknowledging that social enterprise and impact investment harness trade, investment and business activity towards social and environmental objectives and are increasingly recognised as critical drivers of innovation for sustainable development,

Recognising that the concepts of social enterprise and impact investment have been gathering momentum in the Asia-Pacific region, and that a growing body of research indicates that these agendas are creating jobs for disadvantaged groups, empowering women and young people, and addressing social exclusion across the Asia-Pacific region,

Recognising also that governments in the Asia-Pacific region as well as the United Kingdom government have been at the forefront of innovative policymaking on this agenda,

Acknowledge the role that social enterprise and impact investment can play in supporting progress on the goals and targets of the SDGs, notably by developing impactful and innovative solutions to entrenched social and environmental problems and spurring sustainable and inclusive development,

Affirm the benefits of raising awareness of, building momentum for, and supporting the growth of social enterprise and impact investment across the Asia-Pacific region as a means of supporting progress on the SDGs,

Affirm the value of research, analysis, training, policy dialogues and guidance to support policy makers and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to formulate and implement policies and strategies that foster social enterprise and create an enabling environment for impact investment,

Also affirm our intention to share learning and evidence and pool expertise between countries and with relevant stakeholders on effective approaches to building an ecosystem in support of social enterprise and impact investment, in order to create the conditions in which social enterprise and impact investment can flourish,



Recognise the value of building a community of leaders and advisers across the Asia-Pacific that meets at regular intervals with the aim of sharing experience and pooling expertise around the growth of social enterprise and impact investment in the region and sharing evidence of the critical roles that social enterprise and impact investment can play in support of the 2030 Agenda,

Further recognise the necessity of revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development in support of the 2030 Agenda, as stipulated in SDG 17, which states that “a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society” adding that, “these inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level”,

Enjoin the United Nations ESCAP Secretariat, British Council, GSG, SEWF, GSEN, AVPN and the Ākina Foundation to help build such a community by producing research, analysis, training, policy dialogues and by offering guidance to support policy makers and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region in formulating and implementing policies and strategies that foster social enterprise and create enabling environments for impact investment.



Appendix

About the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

For more information on the background of the SDGs, click [here](#).

About the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region.

The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which it does by reinforcing and deepening regional cooperation and integration to advance connectivity, financial cooperation and market integration. ESCAP's research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments aims to support countries' sustainable and inclusive development ambitions.



About the Social Enterprise World Forum (SEWF)

Social Enterprise World Forum (SEWF) was established in 2008 by national social enterprise support agencies seeking a means to advance social enterprise development globally. Bringing together social enterprise practitioners, support agencies, investors, public, private and government representatives, the inaugural event in [Edinburgh in 2008](#) provided a platform to bring together social enterprise leaders and champions from all continents to collaborate, share best practice and plan future developments.

This collaboration raised awareness of social enterprise as an expanding global mechanism for social change and explored the merit of ongoing collaboration for event stakeholders. Subsequent forums were planned and held in [Melbourne in 2009](#) and [San Francisco in 2010](#).

The event quickly gained momentum and recognition as a springboard for progressing the sector and establishing global relations; stimulating local agencies to bid to host the event in [South Africa in 2011](#), [Rio de Janeiro in 2012](#), [Calgary in 2013](#), [Seoul in 2014](#), [Milan in 2015](#), [Hong Kong in 2016](#) and our current event held in Christchurch.

Each event has reflected **SEWF's** values of:

- Commitment to social justice;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Emphasis on education; and
- Commitment to excellence.

The interest in the event and the legacy it has left in each of the host countries has prompted the **SEWF**Board to change the role of the company and its objectives from just a committee supporting event hosts but as catalysts for change in the sector.

For further information visit www.sewfonline.com, follow @_sewf.

About The Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG)

The GSG is an independent global steering group catalyzing impact investment and entrepreneurship to benefit people and the planet. The GSG was established in August 2015 as the successor to and incorporating the work of the Social Impact Investment Taskforce established under the UK's presidency of the G8. The GSG currently has 15 countries plus the EU as members. Chaired by Sir Ronald Cohen, the GSG brings together leaders from the worlds of finance, business and philanthropy.



About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

Through our Global Social Enterprise programme, we promote the development of social enterprise and social investment to help address entrenched social and environmental problems and deliver positive change in our communities and societies. Our programme is designed to help foster a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future and build collaboration, opportunities and trust between the UK and other countries. Find out more: www.britishcouncil.org/society/social-enterprise

About the Global Social Entrepreneurship Network (GSEN)

GSEN is the global network of organisations supporting early stage social entrepreneurs. Our vision is that social entrepreneurs can access great support, no matter where they live. Every year, GSEN members support thousands of social entrepreneurs across the 6 continents to create sustainable social change benefitting millions of people in local communities. GSEN brings these support organisations together to enable them to improve the support available to social entrepreneurs around the world. GSEN creates a community of practitioners who share know-how, best practices and innovations, building the foundations for a more robust social entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Find out more at: www.gsen.global

About AVPN

AVPN is a unique funders' network based in Singapore committed to building a vibrant and high impact philanthropy and social investment community across Asia. As an advocate, capacity builder, and platform that cuts across private, public and social sectors, AVPN embraces all types of engagement to improve the effectiveness of members across the Asia Pacific region.

The core mission of AVPN is to increase the flow of financial, human and intellectual capital to the social sector by connecting and empowering key stakeholders from funders to the social purpose organizations they support.



With over 380 members across 28 countries, AVPN is catalysing the movement towards a more strategic, collaborative and outcome focused approach to philanthropy and social investing, ensuring that resources are deployed as effectively as possible to address key social challenges facing Asia today and in the future.

Visit us at: www.avpn.asia

About the Ākina Foundation

Our name, Ākina, is a Māori word meaning a call for bold action. It also conveys a spirit of watchful and active encouragement, helping others to identify pathways through their challenges.

The Ākina Foundation is growing social enterprise across New Zealand. Our vision is for a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive world.

We believe social entrepreneurs and social enterprise represent a powerful opportunity to build a new economy that regenerates the environment and creates social foundations for people to thrive.

We are very proud to be the host organisation for SEWF 2017.