



# INDO-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

## **Role of Civil Society Organisations in Shaping the Indo-Pacific Region: Prospects and Challenges**

### **Launch Event**

**Friday, September 30, 2022**

**1400-1530 CET / 1730-1900 IST**

*2000-2130 AWST / 0800-0930 EST / 2100-2230 JST / 1900-2030 Jakarta Time*  
(Virtual)

### **Background and Context**

The Indo-Pacific region has become a central feature of any discussion on international relations. Countries within and beyond the Indo-Pacific region have realised its strategic importance in global geopolitics. As the governments of these countries navigate closer cooperation on security, strategic, and economic issues, non-governmental stakeholders should also actively participate to shape the discourse.

In particular, there is immense scope for positive collaboration among civil society organisations (CSOs) to complement the efforts at the inter-governmental level towards greater synergy in the Indo-Pacific.

The [Indo-Pacific Civil Society Forum](#) (IPCSF), an initiative of CUTS International to advance these objectives, will be formally launched at this virtual event. As a network of CSOs in the Indo-Pacific region, IPCSF will act as an enduring platform for advocacy on important issues common to the Indo-Pacific region.

## **Expected Outcomes**

- A platform for free-flowing interactions, discussions and collaborations between stakeholders in the region, including CSOs, government organisations, and think tanks, among others
- Institutionalise the sharing of lessons and experiences gained by CSOs working in individual countries of the region

## **AGENDA**

This launch programme will be a curtain raiser to commence the activities of the Forum. Therefore, keeping in mind ASEAN Centrality and the role of other powers such as Australia and the United States of America in the Indo-Pacific region, the event will focus on the *Role of Civil Society Organisations in Shaping the Indo-Pacific Region: Prospects and Challenges*.

This will be followed by a discussion on the range of activities and future engagements which can be undertaken by the Forum in furtherance of its objectives.