Virtual People’s Assemblies

Part of the global mobilization including the Global Week of Action (September 2020)

TOOLKIT

#PeoplesAssembly2020
Key Information

What: Virtual People’s Assemblies at national level across the world...
.....that build into a global People’s Assembly.

When: September 2020
These will be part of the global mobilization to push for implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Global Week of Action from 18-26 September 2020.

Structure:
Flexible structure with a priority given to marginalised voices.

Outcome:
1-2 page outcome document with key messages to send to heads of state & decision makers, media and feed into the global People’s Assembly.

Website: https://gcap.global/peoples-assembly

Hashtag: #PeoplesAssembly2020
Objectives

- Virtual People’s Assemblies organized by civil society with representatives of the people put marginalized voices at the center to analyze crucial issues.

- The People’s Assemblies develop key messages and demands for decision makers to take proactive policy decisions to address the concerns of the people regarding the COVID-19 crisis and the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

- The People’s Assemblies implement the principles to Leave No One Behind principle and the Furthest Behind First.

- National People’s Assemblies feed into global discussions and the Global Peoples’ Assembly as part of the Global Week of Action.

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Political Situation

The Covid-19 pandemic is widening inequalities and has vast impacts on the wider social, economic and environmental fabric of the world.

Poor people are starving in Africa, South Asia and across the world. Inequalities have further magnified with a glaring lack of access to health care and social protections, an alarming rise of violence against women and girls as well as racism. Workers in the informal sector have lost jobs.

Older people, migrants, persons with disabilities, indigenous communities, persons discriminated based on work and descent, women, transgender people, and children are suffering in multiple ways due to the pandemic as the world looks on helplessly.

Civil society plays a key role in advocating and implementing much needed change and to work on the structural causes of poverty and inequalities. In the past 5 years, civil society has been pushing governments for greater action to implement the Agenda 2030 and leave no one behind, but the desired result has not come.

Despite limitations, we are determined to act to save the planet and humanity, particularly ensure that no one is left behind.
Bottom up process

The People’s Assembly will be prepared in gatherings organised by communities, constituency groups in cooperation with civil society at local and sub-national level. Representatives will present their perspectives in national, regional and global level. They start to identify their issues and problems, analyse the structural causes, discuss and develop a set of demands, devise remedies and prepare the demands and the roadmap for their engagements to address them. It could be the meetings done by various identity-based groups and/or thematic groups, or by general public. These are part of a bottom-up process to ensure that marginalized voices are part of all levels of decision making.

The bottom up process 2020 will be the following:
1. Community and Constituency group meetings/calls
2. National virtual People’s Assemblies first half of September 2020
3. Regional People's Assemblies of constituencies
4. The Global virtual People’s Assembly will build on them

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People’s Assembly 2019

GCAP organized the first global People’s Assembly in New York on 24-25 September 2019 in parallel with the UN SDG Summit and to create a space for civil society to jointly analyse the structural reasons for the injustices, act and plan for coordinated actions to create systemic change to realise the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The main themes of the People’s Assembly in 2019 were:

- Voice
- In/equality
- Climate & Environmental Justice

It was coordinated by GCAP with 21 civil society partners and brought together 300 civil society delegates, from 80 countries and over 200 organisations, representing thousands of people especially those who are marginalized and whose voices would not otherwise be heard, much less given seats in the UN.

Based on the inputs and discussions the Peoples’ Assembly Declaration was developed. The representatives called on governments to adopt more responsive policies and implement radical economic measures to stave off the devastation of the earth.
National People’s Assemblies - 2020

How to organise a national People’s Assembly 2020?
Given the circumstance, the National People’s Assembly 2020 can be held virtually only.

Objectives of the national level People’s Assemblies:

- To bring together community and constituency representatives from across the country together in one platform
- Collate and articulate the issues and demands of people emerged from local assemblies and develop own demand charter
- Discuss the COVID-19 situation and ways of engagement in the SDGs and their better monitoring
- Bring in the Parliamentarians face to face with the people to hear and respond to their demands
- Be part of the global process of organising People’s Assemblies by sending their demand charters

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Optional: Preparatory calls/meetings of constituency groups and local level

In preparation for the national assembly, local communities and constituency groups can come together to deliberate and capture their analysis, messages and demands on inequalities, climate and environment issues and civic space. These community meetings or equality circles feed into the People’s Assemblies at the national level.

Such local and sub-national meetings are optional. National coalitions are encouraged to organise subjects to their capacity to capture voices at the grassroots level.

People and communities come together to:
• Analyse the COVID-19 situation
• Analyse inequalities people and communities are facing
• Give inequalities a face
• Formulate demands to end inequalities in the community, nationally and globally
• Prepare the inputs for the National People’s Assembly
• Decide on actions

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National People’s Assemblies - 2020

Format: online gatherings to discuss issues and develop key messages

GCAP national coalitions or any civil society group organize online meetings or collaborate with other networks and planned events to bring together civil society and marginalized voices to discuss key issues of inequality, poverty and impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on people who are being left behind, needed transformative change, etc.

Who participates and speaks?

The focus of the peoples’ assemblies is to ensure no one is left behind.

Invite and encourage representatives of/from...

- indigenous communities
- people with disabilities
- youth
- women’s groups
- children’s groups
- older people
- people discriminated by work and descent (DWD)
- slum dwellers
- sex workers
- refugees and migrants
- religious minorities
- ethnic minorities
- farming communities
- daily wage earners and unorganised sector workers
- fisher communities
- other grassroots voices.

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National People’s Assemblies - 2020

Format: Online gatherings for 2 hours or more

Example for structure

1. Welcome and introduction by leadership of National Coalition (10 minutes)
2. Inputs on the situation in light of COVID-19, implementation of the SDGs especially on Leave No One Behind and Inequalities (80 minutes)
   - Women’s organisation representative
   - Youth representative
   - Older people
   - Women with Disabilities representative
   - DWD representative
   Discussion
3. Discussion and agreement of key demands and statement (30 minutes - potential small groups of additional 30-45 minutes)
4. Planning for the follow up actions and the Global Week of Action (20 minutes)

What are the expected outcomes?

1. Agreed statement: One or two pages with key demands to:
   - send to the Head of State/Government before the UNGA 2020
   - send to the media
   - be used as input in the Global People’s Assembly

2. Social media posts: Each National virtual People’s Assembly shall have at least one post on both Facebook and Twitter, using the hashtag #PeoplesAssembly2020 and tagging GCAP:
   - Facebook: @GlobalCalltoActionAgainstPoverty
   - Twitter: @whiteband

3. Mobilisation for Global Week of Action:
   The plans for the week of action are finalised in the assembly and participants mobilised to participate.
National People’s Assemblies - 2020

Do you need support?

Please contact your Regional Coordinator if you need any of the following:

1. Organising the virtual People’s Assembly: The GCAP Global Secretariat can help with technical support to organize your Assembly on Zoom.
   - Are you planning a big meeting: 500+ people?
   - Do you need break out rooms?
   - We can help with the technical management while you focus on the content.

2. Developing the programme: Ideas and advice on...
   - Whom to invite
   - How to structure the programme

3. Publication:
   - Designing the invitation
   - Publication on the People’s Assembly webpage, newsletter and emails and GCAP social media

People’s Assembly Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and time</th>
<th>Church Center Room 1 (2nd floor)</th>
<th>Church Center Room 2 (10th floor)</th>
<th>Church Center Room 3 (9th floor)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Sept 2019</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Opening Plenary Representatives from movements from different parts of the world including an indigenous leader from the Amazonas, a young woman from an informal settlement in Nairobi, and a Dalit representative from India, as well as speakers including Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 11:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 – 12:45</td>
<td>Climate and environmental justice</td>
<td>Leave No One Behind: Discrimination based on work and descent (FWD)</td>
<td>Peace and Conflict, Transparency &amp; Accountability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Global Week of Action - 2020

The People’s Assemblies are part of the mobilization in September 2020 and especially of the Global Week of Action, 18-26 September.

The People’s Assemblies can be...

- ... prepare actions for/or be an action during the Global Week of Action #turnitaround including the press and advocacy work (see next slide) or

- ... an action for the Global Week of Action, for example on the 25 September – the 5th Anniversary of the SDGs.

GCAP is coordinating with a consortium of organisations to create a strong mobilization for the Global Week of Action. A major joint action will be a Global Day of Climate Action on 25 September.

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Tag GCAP on...
Facebook: @GlobalCalltoActionAgainstPoverty
Twitter: @whiteband
Press & Advocacy

Press conference & sending outcomes to media
Organize a press conference following or at another time after the People’s Assembly and to highlight the key outcomes.

Draft press release template

Advocacy
The UN General Assembly in September 2020 starting with the 75th Anniversary of the UN and the 5th anniversary of the SDGs on 25 September are ideal moment to advocate for transformative policies as part of the Global Week of Action, 18 – 26 September 2020.

As a follow up to the Peoples’ Assembly, organize political dialogue to bring to decision makers the political demands raised at the grassroots and national level. In the spirit of “Nothing About Us Without Us” representatives of groups left behind shall lead the political dialogue.

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How?
• Letters to the Head of State or governments
• Meeting the heads of state, representatives, key officials doing national SDG monitoring at the end of the People’s Assembly or afterwards
• Influencing political party manifestos based on outcomes
• Follow up meetings: September – October
Share your plans with us!

Are you organising a People’s Assembly?
Let us know and share details of the link and timing!
We will highlight them in our platforms.
Send us the memorandum or the key demands for us to highlight and incorporate into the global declaration.

CONTACT US
GCAP Regional Coordinators
or
info@gcap.global

Technical aspects
Do you need access to or help with a Zoom? Please get in touch!

#PeoplesAssembly2020
Global Call to Action Against Poverty
People Rising to End Inequalities

https://gcap.global

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