

Advancing the Agenda for Development Justice

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The Asia Pacific region has seen rapid growth and significant improvements in the lives of millions, but grave challenges remain. The region still has the largest concentration of people without adequate food, income and employment. Inequalities between and within countries are growing and undermining wellbeing for many.

Unplanned and unregulated urbanisation is increasing and environmental conditions are deteriorating particularly affecting our oceans, forests and mountain regions. Climate change is threatening the lives and futures of entire populations, particularly in the Pacific islands. These challenges are impacting the livelihoods of many, including small farmers and fishers and driving migration on an unprecedented scale.

We are deeply concerned that women, migrants and young people are facing serious barriers to full and free participation in all aspects of society. Health remains a critical challenge, with limited progress addressing sexual, reproductive, and child health and infectious diseases. We face a growing burden of non-communicable diseases and the spread of toxic chemicals.

Human rights violations and environmentally destructive practices are often committed with impunity by large corporations, elites and other power holders with the support or complicity of the state.

To address these challenges, we need development justice.

We need to make fundamental structural changes and put people, particularly marginalized communities, at the center of development. In particular, we need to

- Achieve **redistributive justice** to eliminate inequalities by redistributing the control of resources, wealth and power between and within countries, among women and men, and social groups.
- Achieve **economic justice** by developing economies that enable dignified lives and guarantee rights to decent work, living wages, livelihoods, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education, energy, water and sanitation for all and secure land rights for landless women and men;
- Achieve **social and gender justice** by eliminating all forms of discrimination, marginalization, exclusion and violence, particularly on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression; address fundamentalisms and end impunity; and guarantee sexual and reproductive rights;
- Achieve **ecological justice** by promoting low-carbon development, reorienting production, consumption and distribution systems, and natural resource management and extraction towards peoples' needs; and advance biodiversity-based ecological agriculture and food sovereignty;
- and ensure accountability to the people.

We cannot realize the right to development without a clear **commitment to means of implementation** and an effective global partnership. This must be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities across the framework. We must prioritise public sector financing over public-private partnerships and strengthen corporate accountability and regulation by establishing a binding regulatory framework.

Moving forward, we call upon the UN and the HLPF to ensure policy coherence among institutions, and:

- a. Develop accountability and reporting mechanisms for *all*, including UN Agencies, international financial and trade institutions, transnational corporations and the private sector.
- b. Initiate inclusive peer review mechanisms to evaluate performance; and
- c. Establish special rapporteurs to assess progress, challenges and offer recommendations.

We believe the time has come that civil society engages not only as observers, but as partners with equal rights in policy development, implementation, monitoring and accountability. We must be recognized as having the experience and technical expertise to contribute to development debates based on our work from the grassroots to the global levels. We call for the institutionalization of civil society engagement in all sustainable development processes through a regional mechanism designed by civil society themselves.

Finally, we commit to work together with the people, governments and other institutions to promote just and sustainable development.