

57D D

**Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 19-21 May 2014**

**Pattaya Statement: Major Group for Children and Youth**

We, the representatives of children and youth from Asia-Pacific Region, are facing the consequences of environmental, social and economic degradation and we are challenged for not being in the state of decision and policy making processes. Speaking on behalf of around 750 million young people, the most vulnerable ones residing in Asia Pacific, we would like to reinforce the following recommendations, hoping that it would call upon the action than what has been committed time to time and be deliberated for achieving the development goals securing the future of our and future generations.

Firstly, we call upon all the head of states, government and UN Agencies to articulate a universal definition of children, adolescents and youth to avoid all forms of country-specific contradictions at regional and global levels.

We urge the government to be represented by wise and farsighted leaders in all sort of national development agendas without manipulating the policies as our time is precious and we do not want to be blamed by our future generations.

We urge the member states to set ambitious targets to ensure equal and decent work opportunities for the youth within the region by promoting inclusive ecological growth which is imperative to create an environment that appropriately assess risks they may face. As relevant and skilled based employment opportunities for young people, including the rural, disabled and marginalised groups are crucial for nation building as they are the key stakeholders for development.

We need government, UN Agencies, organizations and other stakeholders to integrate volunteerism of young people into employment opportunities since unpaid slavery is increasing youth unemployment.

We demand an increase investment in youth, the exchange of expertise and knowledge, provided access to education and ICT (Information, Communication and Technology), transfer the prerequisites for technology, establish country-based research centers for discoveries and inventories on sustainable technology which are qualitative, affordable, easily accessible but not outdated.

We believe that just and fair governance should oversee the implementation of sustainable development processes acknowledging variation in geographical orientation from Mountains to Islands within the Asia Pacific by removing unnecessary wastage on tax resources, restricting overexploitation of land and ocean by the public and private sectors.

We strongly appeal the governments to enforce strong rules and laws to control food and natural resources wastage, sustainable consumption and production patterns, ensure equal education, health coverage rights including full immunization coverage, prevention of underage pregnancies, safe motherhood, sufficient supply of nutrition safe drinking water, proper sanitation and hygiene.

We also call the governments to combat child trafficking and child labor, end child marriage, eliminate all sorts of discrimination against girls and young women by ensuring them to have

rights over sexual and reproductive freedom as well as provision of full protection over children's safety in and outside of the house.

We demand the governments to end all forms discrimination, marginalization, exclusion and violence, particularly on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, gender identities and gender expression, young people based on their political views and status, religion, and social status. We also urge to address fundamentalism and end impunity; reform and repeal the policies and laws that indirectly criminalize and discriminate the young people mentioned above.

We seek for meaningful and effective solutions from the governments on young vulnerable groups from LGBTIQ, child sex workers, youth with disabilities, religious minorities, migrants, stateless and internally displaced child, youth living in poverty, living in war zones, with HIV and AIDS, drug users; with genuine democratic consultations, sufficient funding allocation and provision of other resources, and protection on the right to freedom of expression and assembly.

Last but not least, we associate ourselves with the statement read by our colleague earlier on behalf of the CSO Forum and endorse the framework of development justice. And we look forward to partnership with our governments, Civil Society members, UN and other stakeholders for collaborative and cohesive efforts to make this earth a better place for living and to ensure our demands are met, leaving no one behind.