

## ***Science and technology CSO Major Group statement***

Science and technology is central to the means of implementation for achieving sustainable development. We, Asia-Pacific civil society organizations working on science and technology, stress that in order to harness its full potential, we must make science, technology and innovation “people centered.”

To address the challenges in Asia Pacific, we need to use science and technology to reduce inequalities, improve the lives of poor and marginalised communities and safeguard environmental integrity, especially to serve the needs of the large agricultural and coastal communities of the region.

For technology to be an effective tool to achieve sustainable development, we must focus on more than just ‘technology transfer’ from the global North to South, and increasingly from big developing countries to smaller economies. Developing countries must be enabled to identify the strategic development needs of their people and their corresponding science and technology requirements. This should guide technology facilitation and adaptation, as well as innovation, ensuring the use of endogenous technologies and indigenous and traditional knowledge, whenever applicable.

Countries must also develop the capacity to evaluate new technologies before they are transferred and deployed in order to make best use of technology facilitation and the flexibilities of existing IPR regimes. Financing for people-centered technology development, transfer and dissemination must be prioritized and facilitated.

We propose to pursue regional collaboration of stakeholders on increasing access to information,/ public participation/ and access to justice in environmental matters, as a way of building enabling environments, as stated in Principle 10 of the Future We Want, and request UNESCAP and UNEP/ROAP to initiate the process.

We thus call for transformative science. Such a framework would allow us to map out and generate evidence on how we can use science and technology to move towards production and economic processes that would help to fulfill people’s right to develop, equitably and within natural limits. It should engage and employ local scientists, engineers and technologists to address local technological issues that hinder agricultural development, women’s participation, climate change adaptation, learning and education.

In addition, we call for the reform of the international global architecture for international trade, finance, taxation, business accounting and intellectual property rights to be consistent with achieving sustainable development goals and equity.

Lastly, we call for the involvement of the science and technology community in setting and committing to standards, benchmarks, targets and indicators relating to the future SDGs at the national level. In order to ensure we’re making progress towards our common goals, we must have inclusive monitoring and evaluation system that can hold institutions accountable.