



Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

SESSION 5: MAKING CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE: REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Migrants Constituency Statement

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Our region is both a home and origin for millions of migrant workers many of whom were driven overseas due to challenges in decent work in migrant sending countries but then again, find that decent work is still very much a concern too in countries where they are employed. Women in particular suffer disproportionately and face particular challenges such as lack of skill training, disparity in wages and benefits, non-recognition of their domestic work, risks to their health and that of their children.

Many migrants are in low paid informal work who face very specific challenges such as violence, non-inclusion in labour and other ordinances, denial of labour rights and minimum wages, long working hours, criminalization, access social protection facilities, and right to organization. These challenges impact heavily on the general health and wellbeing of migrant workers. Sexual and reproductive health problems, including HIV infection are ever present because migrant workers are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuses.

Migration and the conditions of migrants impacts us collectively, and is an issue that regional cooperation can help solve. Trade and investment agreements have aggravated the condition for decent work as it puts more premium on the interest of businesses over the rights of workers - both migrants and locals.

It is also necessary to take actions to address displacement due to climate change. New conventions and policies on the rights of those displaced by climate change and the disasters it induces including relocation and rehabilitation must be put in place.

Constricting borders is also very much a concern as, in most cases, such puts migrants who are mostly temporary workers in conditions of vulnerability, exclusion, marginalisation and even criminalisation. Migrants have either absent or limited access to justice that is further worsened by the lack of legal service assistance by the states.

Aside from migrants, states must also take seriously the dire situation of refugees in and from Asia Pacific. We believe that through cooperation of states, UN bodies and stakeholders among civil society, the refugee crisis can be resolved with the rights of refugees at its center.

The Migrants Constituency of the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism calls for the states in the region to:

1. Make true the promise of leaving no one behind to ensure inclusion of migrants, refugees and displaced people in development policies that also promote the rights of migrants in the economic especially labor, social, political and cultural spheres;



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2. Rethink the remittance-driven development strategy and adopt a development framework that truly addresses the roots causes of forced migration and displacement including the severe inequalities among and within states, economic hardships, social problems, environmental factors and gender-based violence.

In the spirit of leaving no one behind, we sincerely hope the governments in Asia and Pacific will embrace and include our aspiration for development justice as migrants, refugees and displaced people in your final roadmap of 2030 agenda. Thank you very much.