

STATEMENT BY MAJOR GROUPS (Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD))

ESCAP 69TH COMMISSION SESSION, MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

Thank you Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates....

My name is Wardarina from Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law, Development, and member of Campaign of **Peoples' Goals** on Sustainable Development. I'm speaking on behalf of the Major Groups that participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 outcomes last week.

I would like to simply reiterate our requests to the RIM, which may be summed up to the call for government delegates to be **BOLD** enough to embrace a transformative development agenda - the agenda that rethink the concept of growth/ alongside reform of economic governance and within our strained planetary boundaries; the agenda that establish “**economies that work for the people, and not people working for the economy**”, also, the agenda that tackles the root structural causes of inequality between and within countries, between rich and poor and between men and women.

Concretely, we recommend the following:

1. A Transformation of Global Structure: We call for **deep and structural changes** in existing global systems of power, resources and decision making. We need frameworks and institutions that are **democratic, transparent, accountable to all people**, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised.
2. Principles: The Post-2015 development agenda must be based on existing human rights legal norms, standards and political commitments. International human rights law, including the Declaration on the right to development, UDHR, CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, UNDRIP, ECSR, and ICCPR and their follow-up programmes must form a non-negotiable base
3. **On Key Priorities for** Post 2015 development agenda, we think that new development framework should guarantee
 - **People's control over resources and sustainable livelihoods** – particularly for **rural, indigenous peoples**. We need to urgently address climate change, the trend of land and ocean grabbing in the region, and place food sovereignty framework as the **core** of SDGs.

- Ensuring **Environmental sustainability** and animal welfare
- **Guarantee Decent work and living wage**, full employment, universal social protection and social dialogue. Including ensuring policies to protect migrant workers and recognising domestic work as work.
- Placing **Peace and security** based on justice as **a highly important** and integral element of sustainable development. This includes measures on the elimination of **all forms of violence against women**.
- Lastly, Good governance starts at home with women able to make decisions over their own bodies, sexuality and lives. We need a minimum guarantee that the new development framework ensure **sexual and reproductive rights** for women and girl, and access to quality and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls. When women from Asia and the Pacific do not have the ability to make decisions on all aspects of their sexuality and decide the number and spacing of their children, then they cannot participate wholly in any aspects of our lives.

4. On Means Of Implementation, we call on governments and other stakeholders for:

- using the human rights architecture as its' basis and prioritize public financing over public-private partnerships in order to realise states obligation to allocate the maximum availability of resources
- Transparent and inclusive mechanisms for data collection and analysis for monitoring progress that draw inputs from marginalised groups – including women; Transparency of information, including budgets, Transparent and inclusive decision-making processes and mechanisms at all levels and across thematic themes
- We also call on developed countries to honor their Rio commitments to provide financial resources and transfer technologies to least developed and developing countries.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates....

We call for special and deliberate attention to the plights of SIDS, LDCs and other vulnerable countries; and for special efforts to ensure the meaningful participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups and stakeholders in policy- and decision-making. We welcome the support for multi-stakeholder processes, but stress that engagement with the private sector must be complemented by accountability.

We also call on governments and ESCAP to recognize the contributions that civil society is making and call for the formalization of our participation in decision-making. We feel the importance for our voices to be acknowledged and to be heard, and to have an equal partnership with governments in the decision-making on national, regional and global forum.

That is what we believe as genuine and meaningful regional and global partnership. **There can be no sustainable development without full, meaningful and effective participation of civil society and people's movements.** Thank you....