

**We, LGBTIQ constituency of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), met at the Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development on May 17 - 18, 2015 and in conjunction with the week of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOT) 2015 and the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2015, issue the following statement:**

We are stigmatized, discriminated and criminalized for our sexual orientations and gender identity and expressions.

According to the United Nations resolution on sexual orientation, gender identity (A/HRC/27/L.27/Rev.1) which is in line with report of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Right “Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individual based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (A/HRC/19/41)” reported homosexuality as illegal in 76 countries in the world including 26 countries in Asia Pacific and 2 countries that enacted death penalty against consensual same sex relation.

We, LGBTIQ people, who are citizens of the world contributing to the global development and global economy, face injustice from the current model of global development. We are often excluded from social and economic development and are also victims of the natural and environmental disaster.

This situation has added more burden to us, especially the young, people with disability, key infected and affected population by HIV/AIDS, people with political status, stateless persons, and indigenous peoples, are discriminated, tortured, violated, criminalized, prosecuted and forced to migrate out of our families, communities, even from countries, to seek a safer environment, shelter, protection and to adapt with the unknown new place(s). We are often stigmatized, bullied, attacked in education institutions, expelled from home and work because of our sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. We face various forms of stigma and discrimination, exclusion, abuse, criminalization on daily basis which acts as barrier in accessing our basic rights. We are denied from decent housing and access to decent work depending on our choice and qualifications, access to safe drinking water and sanitation and even being discriminated in emergency responses. We deplore the way we are blamed for the disasters, and with this, hatred is built up against us, making us even more vulnerable to violence and marginalization. This has restricted and lessened our time and opportunity to be able to participate in community affairs especially in education, work places, including participation in implementation of programmes in all dimensions of development. We demand our right to be recognized and adopted into the governments’ development policies and programmes. .

We are concerned that our potentials to contribute in social, economic, political and environmental issues, through our practices and traditions are not considered to be valuable.

We lament that the sustainable development goals do not include sexual orientation and gender identity and expressions which hampers countries in achieving sustainable development. We are concerned that equality and human rights values with non-discriminatory principles are not integrated in the negotiation of Asia Pacific countries, and adherence to the basic principle of universality, interdependence, indivisibility, and interrelatedness of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and consequently elaborated in other human rights instruments, such as International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Lastly, for realization of development justice, we urge the Governments of the Asia Pacific region to

- Address the discriminatory policies and practices in the national and local levels, to review and repeal punitive laws and policies, draft non-discriminatory policies on the basis of human rights approach, and adopt the Yogyakarta Principles.

- ⦿ Establish transparent and accountability mechanisms at all levels that bind states, private sectors to engage LGBTIQ people in the decision making processes at local, national, regional, global policies to address discrimination, stigma, criminalization and prosecution and all forms of violence against LGBTIQ people in all dimensions.
- ⦿ Integrate and mainstream sexual orientation, gender identity and expression issues into sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda with specific sexual orientation, gender identity and expression indicators that reflect the Yogyakarta Principles.
- ⦿ Revive the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and recognize sexual orientation, gender identity and expression in it.
- ⦿ Establish sexual orientation, gender identity and expression caucus within UN and other entities in the region of Asia and the Pacific to address the local, national, regional and global issue of discrimination, criminalization and prosecution; and fulfillment of LGBTIQ peoples' rights.
- ⦿ Include human rights approaches, non-discriminatory, and equality principles, also SOGIE perspectives in all actions related to program implementation at global, regional, national and local levels on means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development.
- ⦿ Ensure the states are providing LGBTIQ people secure and safe environment; just and peaceful societies, such as LGBTIQ crisis centers incorporation with the National Human Right Institutions.
- ⦿ Commit for a people-centered development models that are just, equitable, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression-sensitive and locally driven. Such a transition should be based on the development justice model ensuring redistributive, economic, gender and social justice as well as accountability to the people.

