



# Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

## **Session 4. National progress and achievements on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (VNR Panel)**

**Presented by Panjit Kaewsawang, Forum Women's Forum**

**I am speaking as part of the women constituency of the Asia Pacific civil society engagement mechanism, AP-RCEM.**

**Women's and feminist organizations has been active working and engaging, raising our voice and concerns on women's right. On the lead up to the creation and Agenda 2030 and when it approved by member states in 2015.**

The Asia Pacific region has seen much conflicting trends when it comes to women's rights. While some gains have been made, fundamentalisms, patriarchy and militarization continue to limit opportunities for women and girls to further realize their full potential. While the prevalent economic model that perpetuates, and often relies on, the systematic discrimination and disadvantage experienced by women in order to generate growth.

Chair, as part of a collective women's movement, I am honored to be able to address member states on how study has shown that the single most determining factor for combating violence against women has been the presence of an autonomous women's movement. Therefore, the successful implementation of the Agenda 2030 is dependence on the genuine participation and engagement of women's and feminist organizations.

Many member states have set up new architectures for Agenda 2030 implementation, and within these structures, have provided space for Civil Society Organisations engagement and participation within the architecture. So in this regards, some of the member states in the region has begun to show the way, and we call upon other member states to do the same.

Despite these improvements challenges still exists for civil societies who were able to access these spaces to ensure that their voices and demands influence government's policy and programmes, and to ensure the participations of CSOs representing marginalized groups. So we call upon member states to not only ensure the participation of civil societies in these processes, but to carry out affirmative actions that ensure the representation of the voices of the most marginalized, indigenous, dalits, rural, urban poor, migrant women, women workers, women with disabilities and diverse women.

We are also alarmed that in the work we do at the national level, a number of countries has raised the lack of funding and finance of Agenda 2030. The Agenda 2030 has regressed from previous commitments to address the imbalance of global financial system, instead expended the role of private sector and paving the way for unaccountable partnerships. A shortage of financing could mean that essential services and infrastructure that women and girls rely on, central to reduce their unpaid care burden and access healthcare services are not funded.

Recognize that gender justice cannot be achieved without understanding the interlinkages between and interdependence of all goals. We would finally like to call upon the member states to ensure that women's rights and gender equality is central, not only to the implementation of goal 5 but across all goals. If the Agenda 2030 is truly going to be the agenda that leaves no one behind.