

APRCM collective statement at APFSD 2021 during the session on

Linking national, regional, and global dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / The UN acting as one on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

I am Wali Haider, speaking on behalf of Roots for Equity and APRCEM, a platform of more than 600 organisations to facilitate CSOs engagement with UN processes in the region, like APFSD, and beyond.

There are 33 references to the term “regional” in the Agenda 2030. **The HLPF specifically mandates regional cooperation and dialogue**, through the *regional fora convened under the HLPF* . Member states have also recognized that ***Regional and subregional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level.***

Regional process has much to offer in many ways:

First, it creates **proximity and accessibility for local and grassroots communities** to directly engage in regional discussions and work closely with their governments at the national or local level.

Second, Identifying regional priority issues vis a vis addressing systemic barriers requiring multilateral resolve to propose specific solutions at the regional level which may be difficult at global level.

The role of regional forums could be better defined in the follow-up and review process, which can be done through:

- **Regional VNR** - submission of interim VNRs to the regional forums for comments and inputs, and subsequently submit the final reports to the HLPF. The year after countries report, a follow up report is submitted to the regional forums – this will lead to greater accountability
- **More sessions of the HLPF should be dedicated to systematically integrate regional forum perspectives to inform global processes.** To further enhance the process, **a continuous feedback loop should be created to flow back from HLPF into regional, sub-regional and national levels** to track the implementation of recommended actions.
- **The recommendations should also be directed at the national and regional level UN systems** (including Resident Coordinators, specialized agencies and country missions), for complementarity and accountability.
- **The outcome document from the regional processes (report and Chair summary) should be integrated with the ministerial declaration of the HLPF.**
- Lastly, ***participation of civil society in regional follow-up mechanisms should be systematically enhanced through allocations of spaces as well as financial resources.***

COVID 19 has reinforced our foundational narrative that the current neoliberal development model combined with capitalist globalization, patriarchal authoritarianism and militarism is inherently flawed. And, that it is possible (if we have the political will) to realize a rights-based people-centered development model that addresses inequalities of wealth, power and resources. It is time for Development Justice - that strives for redistributive, economic, environmental, social and gender justice, and accountability to peoples.

Thank you!