

**Intervention for RTD session  
(Culled from APRCEM's 2021 Statement)**

APRCEM's analysis of the progress and concrete recommendations for the goals reviewed in 2021 are rooted in and from Development Justice Lens. Reflecting on the discussions in the roundtables yesterday, we appreciate the openness and engaging deliberations in some of the sessions. However, APRCEM noted that these failed, and time and again, to generate political commitment to address the systemic barriers to the SDGs.

One issue that was not discussed strongly enough is the root causes of inequality among the rich and poor countries which is rooted in the extortive debt system in the World. Many countries were in debt distress before the Covid-19 crisis began and many more will emerge from this crisis with even higher unsustainable debts. The greed for resources and lack of respect for indigenous rights, their ownership of the lands and the recognition of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

Second, there was no targeted challenge on the emerging private capture of the SDGs. Public-private partnership is not a panacea, and is not the solution to address the root causes behind food insecurity, malnutrition and highly uneven distribution of resources that seriously persist in the region halfway towards the 2030. Strategic investments in agro-ecology, education and the public health systems, as well as on disaster and pandemic preparedness should never be presented as potential profit-making enterprises for the private sector and must only come from the public sector and as part of basic rights of citizens. Responses to the COVID-19 crisis must be centered on the well-being of people, empowering them and advancing equality.

Third, SDG 4 and SDG 5 are not part of the cluster of SDGs in this year's HLPF. But sustained recovery and resiliency is impossible without SDG 4 and SDG 5. APRCEM believes that even in crisis situations such as this pandemic, the right to education must be protected and learning must continue as it is one of the most important strategies for responding to this and other crises. Education and learning enable children, youth and adults to individually and collectively cope and adapt to the changes.

The follow up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda must focus on analysing the root causes and tackling the systemic barriers to achieve sustainable development. Wherever a lack of significant progress is identified, an adequate analysis of the root causes and systemic barriers must be conducted, including those related to the global inequalities of wealth, power and resources, international economic, trade, monetary and financial frameworks, militarism and conflict as well as patriarchy and the resurgence of patriarchal authoritarian governance.<sup>1</sup> As I come from Myanmar, I would like to emphasize on the

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<sup>1</sup> APRCEM position paper. APRCEM

issue of militarism and the patriarchal authoritarian governance is a serious political issue that governments in Asia Pacific cannot and must not ignore in APFSD.