AGENDA ITEM 2: Thematic Review with focus on “the interlinkages between Climate Change, Poverty and Hunger”

Collective Statement to be delivered by Ajaykumar V. B, Equitives Foundation and APRCEM Fisherfolks Constituency

Excellencies, colleagues, I speak on behalf of the APRCEM Fisherfolk Constituency. We come here at a time when most parts of the world, especially the most marginalised of communities are in deep sufferings.

We are at an inflection point in the global governance, sustainability and wellbeing of humanity. Poverty reduction has stalled, hunger and inequality are rising. Violent wars refuse to abate and pose serious questions to international peace and security. Recovery from the pandemic is incomplete and uneven. Trade and economic cooperation have failed to deliver shared prosperity. Climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution seem irreversible and the SDGs are unachievable. Countries after countries are falling deep into a debt crisis and are confronted with soaring cost of living.

Almost a decade into the implementation of the SDGs, there is no denying that progress remains alarmingly slow and targets are still out of reach. The absence of emphasis in addressing systemic barriers entrenched within the social, economic and political structures impedes the full realisation of these goals.

Almost 25 per cent of the population faces moderate or severe food insecurity, which is just the same as in 2021. Forty percent, or 809 million people, can be found in Southern Asia, which has the highest prevalence of severe food insecurity—mostly women and children from marginalised groups.

Fossil fuel dependency, climate adaptation deficit, and increasing climate-related loss and damage also remain persistent challenges. These intersect with pre-existing inequalities, further amplifying the disempowerment and marginalisation of communities.

The SDG Summit 2023 listed food systems as one of the key transitions with multiplier effects across the Goals, including poverty, hunger, and climate. We must radically transform our food systems to shift away from the big corporate, fossil-fuel-heavy, and agrochemical-dependent model and towards a people-centred and people-led agricultural and food production model that prioritises the food security needs of the people.

The increasing vulnerability of the region to the catastrophic climate impacts of the triple planetary crisis is the result of the continuing inaction of developed countries to reduce their emissions in near terms based on their fair shares and provide new, additional, adequate, and predictable climate finance to developing countries based on the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDRRC) clause.

Overall, we believe that sustainable food systems and nutrition patterns demand uncompromised focus on food and seed sovereignty agroecological approaches, enhanced
protection to small farmers and food producers including women and youth farmers, and dismantling of corporate control over agriculture and the food system.

And finally, we demand the redistribution of resources