7th APPC

15-17th November, 2023

Bangkok, Thailand

Panel Discussion (Day 2)

D: Partnerships and Regional Cooperation

Statement:

My name is Bilal Ahmed from SPEAK Trust, Pakistan. I represent CSOs and youth organizations from 25 countries that convened for a forum on 13-14 November ahead of 7APPC. SPEAK is committed to eliminate public health inequities, promoting gender equality and advancing human rights. CARAM and SPEAK are a strong advocate for the protection and promotion of migrants’ health and labor rights while promoting safe and regular migration.

Partnerships among and within countries and regional cooperation are crucial to achieve the objectives of ICPD Programme of Action and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the Report of the International Organization for Migration, Migration will likely remain an influential factor in the region’s demographic outlook over the next century. Accurate, accessible and disaggregated migration data is therefore necessary to understand the complex migratory patterns in the region.

Migrants’ health rights are largely being ignored across the migration continuum. To protect migrants’ health rights and to ensure their access to quality healthcare services require a holistic and collaborative approach from sending, transit and receiving countries.
My recommendations for the member states are:

- Foster collaboration and information-sharing among countries in the region to address common challenges and share best practices.
- Establish regional mechanisms for coordinated responses to migration issues.
- Ensure meaningful and effective participation of CSOs being part of decision making at all levels, sub national, national, regional, and global. Ensure that CSO recommendations are made part of the UN reports and documents.
- All member states should work collectively to address these common challenges in order to improve the well-being of their populations.
- Labor sending countries in Asia and Pacific should collectively negotiate with the governments of receiving countries across the globe to protect and promote the health and labor rights of the migrants.

There is a need to remove the discriminatory health policies in receiving countries and enhance Migrants' access to health services regardless of their HIV and legal status and provide UHC for Migrants especially migrant worker and refugees in sending and receiving countries

Thank You