

## **AP RCEM Children and Youth Constituency Statement**

### **Thank you Madam Chair!!**

Representing 50% of the population in this region, we, the youth, children and adolescent constituency of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism, come together of all young people in our diversity towards the effective and accountable implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We, as young people, must have spaces and means to engage as critical partners in the decision-making, planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability of achieving SDGs, from the national, regional and global perspectives. This will require budgeted participation, leadership and capacity-building mechanisms to develop skills and knowledge assuring their visions will be not overlooked.

We find it essential that there is a need for the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, bearing in mind that this region has the highest rate of growth of GDP at the same time, highest rate of vulnerability to disasters, climate change, tackling the environmental issues by Ecological Tax Reform, the creation of 'Green Economy Roadmap', and establish renewable energy transition program that promotes community-based decentralized renewable energy systems as well as the change of our mind set through implementation of measures beyond GDP to determine progress/growth.

We also want to make it extremely clear that every partnership for sustainable development should go through a community and research-based assessment for determining its social, ecological and economic impacts. Social and environmental externalities should be part of the follow up and review process, including in the form of ecological footprint reporting of countries and corporations. Governments, partnerships and corporations should be obliged to report on their usage of natural resources in communities. Offsets and hypothetical credits are not satisfactory instruments to restore ecosystems or negative social impacts.

Alongside with the current negotiation in NY, we would like to echo the importance of robust mechanism for accountability, which include legally mandated, well-resourced and specifically designated measures for meaningful and effective youth participation from this region in monitoring and review, including in the HLPF and regional mirror... Sustainable development policies cannot be effectively reviewed and adjusted without our perspectives, experiences and voices. It is our right, and we are here to claim it on behalf of those not in this room. We demand that SDGs should have clear ambitious indicators and the data disaggregation by age in 5 years interval..

We urge that, any stigmatization and discrimination the youth face today, needs to be end immediately by collective actions and political commitments. Justice for all means... Justice for ALL young people as well. We exist in all forms of vulnerability but lost in the jungle of emerging buzz words. We are women, farmers, fisher folks, entrepreneurs, trade unions, migrants, the one living with and affected by HIV, LGBTIQ, with disabilities, indigenous people, all spread from oceans to mountains, rural to urban, and grass root to global. But where are we? Where we exactly need to be? We want to be the catalyst for action not a subject to be discussed on, to live dignified lives with skill-based paid jobs not enslaved by obligations and needs, we deserve the right to make informed, autonomous decisions that affect our and the lives of coming generations.

We are committed to our roles and responsibilities as the equal partner for the implementation of sustainable development goals. For this all we need is to get engaged and actively involved not only in decision and policy making processes but also in formulating the action plans at national, regional and global level. So when we look back we won't regret for what we have done for our and the coming generation.