

AP RCEM WOMEN'S CONSTITUENCY INTERVENTION
ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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The Women's Constituency of the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism is composed of a large, diverse group of women—we work on diverse issues and diverse contexts in a region with deep inequalities and paradoxes, coming from small island states to populous sub-continent. We represent women who comprise the majority of the poor in this region and the world, women who are migrants, trafficked, refugees, displaced and affected by conflicts and disasters, indigenous, ethnic minorities, rural, remote, urban poor, living with disabilities, workers, including informal and domestic workers, farmers, fisher folk, sex workers, youth, older, and throughout the life cycle, living with and affected by HIV, in prison, who use drugs, *dalit*, single, widow, of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions are the most likely to experience marginalisation and a denial of their human rights.

We would like a strong commitment from you, our Asia-Pacific governments, to advance gender equality and women's human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, as a critical part of achieving sustainable development. If we cannot control our own bodies, sexualities, and fertility, we cannot exercise any of our other civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights.

We call on you to address the following: recognition of women's multiple burden and valuing of women's unpaid care work; provision of decent work and living wage, including precarious work and informal settings; the right to inherit, own and control assets, property, land, fishing rights, and productive resources; eliminating gender-based and sexual violence and discrimination in all its forms and in all systems and institutions; ending child, early and forced marriage, and forced sterilizations, especially of women with disabilities and women living with HIV; provision of universal access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services; provision of comprehensive sexuality education in both in and out of school settings; and ensuring women's decision-making and political participation. We must revoke discriminatory and punitive laws and policies, and ensure these uphold women's human rights. This will lead to positive social gains, as well as higher economic productivity and faster growth.

Patriarchy and the neoliberal capitalist system, which perpetuates inequitable and unfair global and regional macroeconomic trade and financial policies, are the root causes of gender inequality and unequal access to the world's resources and wealth. Climate change, disasters, conflict and displacement, migration, political and religious fundamentalisms and extremism, landlessness, and the food, economic and finance crises, disproportionately impact women (as well as of young people, LGBTIQ and marginalised groups). The extraterritorial behavior of transnational corporations affect the safety and sovereignty of food, land, water, air, and all ecosystems and coopt every aspect of our lives. Achieving social, political and economic justice for all requires addressing all of these in an interlinked and holistic manner. Policies, programmes, social services, tax policies, and budgets must be gender-responsive, rights-based, and instituted to address the above structural causes and their impacts, as well as recognition of the multiple burden of women, and the need to transform patriarchal formal and informal social structures. At the same time, women in all their diverse expertise and experience are at the forefront of initiatives to address these, and their capacities must be built and their meaningful participation must be assured.

We would like you to uphold your role as duty bearers of human rights, and to respect, protect and fulfill rights to communications and information, and the wider freedom of expression, speech, movement, and to organise as civil and social movements.

We would like to call for strong, transparent and inclusive accountability mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels in the post-2015 development agenda. We would like you to uphold your social contracts and fulfill commitments to women and the rest of your people. We also would like corporations, including private-public partnerships, as well as UN agencies to be held accountable. Civil society and social movements would be committed to work with you to achieve these goals.

Development justice is not possible without the strongest language and commitment on women's human rights in the Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators. Advancing substantive gender equality among women, men, transgender people, and intersex persons, achieving women's human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, are central to sustainable development. We call strongly for gender justice as part of development justice.