Session 2: June Detayson, AP RCEM (Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism)

Means of Implementation and Financing for Development

We call on Member States to uphold the primacy of the public sector in mobilizing the means of implementation for the Post-2015 development agenda. We are deeply concerned that the current emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships leans too much towards the private sector, which is disproportionately represented by transnational corporations. Governments should exercise the political will to raise public revenues by taxing corporations, assets of high net worth individuals and socially and environmentally harmful activities such as mining, financial speculation, and so on.

We urge the Member States in the region to pursue international tax conventions in the UN so that governments can coordinate national taxation regimes to ensure, for instance, minimum corporate tax rates and other measures designed to reverse the current "race to the bottom" in the area of taxation. Tax cooperation should also deal with trade mispricing and other measures used by multinational corporations to avoid paying proper taxes. Financial Transaction Taxes and other innovative sources of financing such as carbon taxes should likewise be mobilized while military budgets should be cut down and reallocated to social spending.

We call on Member States in the region to reaffirm the Means of Implementation identified in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the Samao Pathway for SIDS. We urge the developed countries to reaffirm and achieve their long-standing commitment of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as official development assistance to developing countries and).15-0.20% for LDCS. Indeed, member states must go beyond these and make new and additional commitments on MOI including on climate financing and global systemic reforms.

Promotion and pursuance of bilateral trade and investment agreements totally weakens multilateralism and moreover, is damaging to national sovereignty since corporations gain unparalleled power to sue national governments. All bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements, and especially the mega-FTAs and North-South FTAs, in the Asia Pacific region need to be subjected to independent human rights impact assessments as these agreements often have provisions that make it difficult to adopt and implement measures for social and environmental goals. In particular, the investor-state-dispute-settlement (ISDS) clauses in investment protection agreements has threatened governments' ability to implement policies protecting development objectives such as public health, environment protection, and policy space.

The principle of CBDR with respective capacities should be the basis for financing developing countries and LDCs. Consensus made in Monterrey and Doha on financing for development must also be upheld.

States should integrate the LDC governments call for full cancellation of multilateral and bilateral debts owed by all least developed countries to public and private creditors and immediately. Immediate debt cancellation should be extended to Nepal recently hit by the devastating earthquake and still reeling with deadly aftershocks, to countries in crisis, and to countries heavily severely by climate change.

Member States should not only acknowledge the UNCTAD's Principles on Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing but also initiate a process that will build on it and other similar efforts leading to the development of a Convention on Responsible Lending and Borrowing.

Disaster response and relief humanitarian needs should have specific approach in line with the Sendai Framework, to address the needs of women, indigenous peoples, dalits, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, young people, LGBTIQ and other socially marginalised groups, as well as accountability mechanisms to affected communities and families.

States must move away from treating remittance as a proxy financial mechanism for development as it further encourages labor exporting as de facto state policy with the consequent commodification of migrants.