STATEMENT of OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Thank you Mr. Chair...

The Rio+20 document outcome called the future we want has clearly and strongly highlighted the “inclusiveness of the Sustainable Development agenda, so it must ensure development with “no one left behind”. In line with the passing agenda and processes especially in the Asia Pacific context we can strongly say that the voices of many important segments of the society, such as fisherfolk, the elderly, disabled people, People living with an affected by HIV, the urban poor, people displaced by disasters and conflict, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities, small and medium enterprises, social enterprises and fair trade organizations and many others, still remain very weak.

Throughout this Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the deliberation of people left behind strongly asking to bring a great attention to those elements of society as follow:

For Fishers:
Asia accounted to 85% from the global numbers fish food producers of persons engage in fishery production (fao,1998), and accounts for around two-thirds of the world’s total consumption of fish. Million of poor family in Asia depend on small-scale fish farms, lakes, inland waterways and fishery and the ocean. As the community that preserve the sustainable fisheries practices, the biggest challenges of million of artisanal fishers, small scale fishers that have been facing is the issues of the right of protection of their fishing area compete to the fishery industries, experiencing ocean and coastal damage, vulnerable to the climate change, lack in empowering support and access to sophisticated instruments to enhance production and involve in the policy making process.

Fisher communities in the sea coasts are victimized from time to time whenever there are tensions between two countries sharing water boarders. The domination of state power against other is shown by way of arresting fisher people in the sea of counter part state other country and put them in hardships for years and some time for decades.

Displacement of coastal communities from coast in the name of development/tourism/establishment of highly polluted/chemical industries across the coast and also displace fishing community from traditional ownership of fresh water inland lakes to the private sector.

Military base in the transboundaries is threatful to the lives of fishing communities and missing the fishing people in high range in such base. This needs to be addressed on the basis of inalienable rights of fishing communities and their rights over the water

For smallscale enterprise:
We urge governments to promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. Also, governments should recognize the important role of enterprises in the economy as the major agents of development, creating off-farm employment opportunities and providing transitional means for improving the livelihood of the people. Towards this end, we encourage governments to pursue an inclusive growth strategy that promotes an environment conducive to the development and growth of a vibrant social enterprise sector engaged in poverty reduction, economic and social development. It shall empower the poor as primary stakeholders in social enterprises, establish mechanisms essential to realizing their potential and achieving their full growth, and extend the assistance
necessary for their advancement. We likewise suggest provision of technical and financial assistance, incentives and other services to enable Social Enterprises to develop into viable and vital anti-poverty agents, and a strong social entrepreneurship movement that will be instrumental in reducing poverty in specific countries and in the Asia-Pacific region.

For LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities)
The governments need to acknowledge that LGBTIQ, people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expression have faced discrimination and criminalization historically. Despite the interventions, the discrimination still exists and the people being criminalized in certain countries. It is imperative that the governments unify and take collective action to address this blatant abuse of human rights. Unless this issue is addressed, we cannot move towards “the world we want”.

For People living with and affected by HIV.
In Asia and the Pacific, there are 4.9 million people living with HIV. This epidemic impacts on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, specifically men who have sex with men, transgenders, sex workers, people who use drugs and their partners. Among these, women, young people, and migrants are even further marginalized and disproportionately impacted. To effectively curb the further spread of HIV and mitigate the impact of the infection, we call on Asian and Pacific governments to review and remove legal and policy barriers that hamper the response, specifically criminalization of key affected populations; eliminate stigma and discrimination based on HIV status; ensure access to treatment, care and support, including for TB and Hepatitis-C co-infections; and, enable full community and civil engagement in all aspects of the response.

At the end, we call on the UN system, the HLPF, and the Member States to give serious attention to those left behind. These other stakeholders “left behind” must be empowered and they must be first given a voice to be able to articulate their critical concerns. They need, along with the other civil society groups already recognised by the UN system, clearly defined and institutionalized spaces and treated as equal partners in the process of attaining sustainable development. The UN system of engaging with civil society must be open, flexible and incorporate evolving needs.

Thank you very much!