

Session 6. Means of Implementation Presented by Cai Yiping, DAWN, Consolidated

Delivered by Cai Yiping CSO statement on session 6 Means of Implementation for Development Justice By Cai Yiping (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era and member of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism)

Thanks! Chairperson, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends, On behalf of Asia Pacific Regional CSO engagement mechanism, I would like to highlight a few points in regards to the draft Regional Roadmap on the session of Means of implementation and partnership.

First, we would like to support recommendation made by Ms. Ranja Sengupta on SDG compatibility impact assessment and urge the ESCAP and member states to critically review the current and impending trade agreements and investment agreements. Second, we express the concerns on bilateral or multilateral public-private partnerships (or PPPs) for both infrastructure and other sectors such as education and health in the current draft. PPPs are promoted with the assumption that (1) governments are unable to pursue the required public investment to basic public goods, and (2) PPPs can introduce technology and innovation to improve the efficiency. However, there is contrary evidence of the negative effects of PPPs, especially fiscal risks (overcharges and fiscal unsustainability).

The important question is -- what global governance structure and national financial policy framework and accountability mechanism should be put into place to monitor PPPs and guarantee public interest over the profit making to make PPPs work for the people. The tax competition in the region, along with tax incentives that benefit large corporations, impedes the generation of adequate public domestic resources. The growing trends of illicit financial flows from Asia and the Pacific require consolidated action and positions among countries in the region.

We call on establishment of an inclusive mechanism for tax cooperation for illicit financial flows. Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains a major and crucial source for addressing systemic poverty and financing for SDGs specially for the LDCs. However, ODA has not only decreased it remains inadequate and largely conditional.

Developing and least developed countries are left on their own responsibility to finance their own social and economic development. Last but not least, on technology, we urge the UNESCAP secretariat and member-states to establish a regional mechanism for the evaluation of potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of new and emerging technologies that are promoted as solutions to development challenges and crises. This mechanism must ensure the participation of potentially affected communities and stakeholders. I thank you for your attention!