

## Session 7. Regional Roadmap Presented by David Corner, Inclusion International, Disability Constituency, Consolidated Statement

### Regional Roadmap

A transformative and holistic Regional Roadmap relies on addressing structural impediments and systemic barriers. It must take into serious consideration targeted and sustained commitments on development finance and co-operation as well as inclusive collection and disaggregation of data to track the gaps and progress condition of the marginalized sectors. It must provide institutionalized space, and support for widest possible stakeholders participation at all levels and ensure principle of non-regression in civil society participation, including people with disability. This is important for attaining broader ownership of the development agenda.

An effective pursuit of the SDGs requires a stable, forward-looking and long-term redistributive financing. Fundamental changes in the international economic and financial systems are needed to ensure a sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

However, available financial resources are either not appropriately channeled or not sufficient to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. Surprisingly, the **Regional Roadmap** is largely silent on the critical issues of science and technology, trade, tax and illicit financial flows, and official development assistance. To be an effective source of development finance and mechanism in the Regional Roadmap, ODA should not only grow in quantity but also improve on its quality and effectiveness. ODA should be harnessed and directed to support social sectors and economic growth to improve the lives of the people. The effective implementation of the SDGs in the region will also require additional domestic resource mobilization, progressive tax systems, and curbing of illicit financial flows. This can be realized through the establishment of an inclusive mechanism for tax cooperation for illicit financial flows. Again, 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. The participation of potentially affected communities and stakeholders in technology assessment must be ensured and the capacity of the UN, governments, civil society and communities in technology assessment must be developed. Finally, trade agreements need to be assessed of their compatibility with the SDGs before and during their implementation.

The Roadmap and other regional processes must effectively ensure means of implementation that adhere to international human rights framework, accountability standards in partnerships and cooperation, and development justice.