

Session 7. Regional Roadmap Presented by Wali Haider, Roots for Equity, Farmers Constituency

Regional Roadmap

I am **Wali Haider** I am speaking in behalf of Roots for Equity and the farmers constituency of the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism.

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 to improve the lives of the people. Likewise, aid should not be used for military purposes, but be diverted to support farmer's agro-ecological based agriculture.

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. Farmer and indigenous traditional knowledge and wisdom must be recognized in the creating solutions for sustainable development.

The participation of rural and indigenous communities, and other potentially affected stakeholders, in the assessment of new technology must be ensured; and the capacity of the UN, governments, civil society and communities in technology assessment must be developed.

Finally, trade and investment agreements, including those made in the WTO, need to be assessed of their compatibility with the SDGs before and during their implementation. Specifically, these trade and investment agreements should be assessed against the SDG goal 2, and must not restrict farmer's access and control of land, water, and seeds among others natural resources.

Finally, a transformative and holistic Regional Roadmap 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 small and landless farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous communities, among others. This is important for attaining democratic and genuine ownership of the development agenda, and for achieving development justice.