Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Government Representatives, and fellow Advocates,

My name is Lloyd Nunag, and I am speaking on behalf of more than 52 CSOs from 24 Asia and the Pacific countries from the CSO forum ‘Charting the way forward- Progress Gaps, and Actions” in advance of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the ministerial declaration from the 6th Asian and the Pacific Population Conference (6APPC) and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) in Asia-Pacific in from November 24-25, 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

A number of constituencies were represented at the forum, including but not limited to: women and girls, LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer) people, migrants, young people and adolescents, aging, people living with and affected by HIV, people with disabilities, rural people, indigenous and tribal peoples.

**Progress on ICPD Implementation in Asia Pacific**

There has been significant progress in terms of policies that promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across the Asia and Pacific region. Implementation of SRHR policies still continues to be a challenge, especially in regards to marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, adolescents and young people living in urban slums, rural areas, hard to reach places, persons with disabilities, migrants, stateless and ethnic minorities, indigenous and tribal peoples, people who use drugs, sex workers, people living with and affected by HIV and people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity/expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

Structural problems in the government, inadequate human, financial and material resources, centralization of the services, limited capacity of the government agencies to operationalize human rights-based policies, and curative framework of the health care system, lack of disaggregated data often lead to implementation gap. Some of the persistent impediments pertain to patriarchal ideology, violence, stigma and discrimination, regressive policy and legislation, lack of accountability and monitoring mechanisms.

**We call on our governments and duty bearers to take the following actions:**

1. Review, repeal and amend laws and policies that restrict the fulfilment of universal access to SRHR including services, information and education.
2. Ensure an enabling environment through enactment and enforcement of laws and policies to address SRHR issues of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Promote and facilitate the participation of these groups in leadership and decision-making positions.
3. Ensure universal access to SRHR information and services using a continuum of quality care through the life cycle approach. This includes access to the full range of contraceptives services, maternal health
services including emergency obstetric care, safe abortion and post-abortion care, HIV, STIs and reproductive cancers for all. This should address the needs of especially young, unmarried, adolescents and LGBTIQ.

4. Institutionalize a mechanism for regular capacity building of key stakeholders including statistical, finance, justice and other relevant departments on gender sensitive approach and SRHR.

5. Ensure respect for women, informed decision making, autonomy, confidentiality and privacy in the provision of safe abortion services. Expand laws and policies to reduce unsafe abortions and increase access to safe abortion as well as provide post abortion care.

6. Increase national investment and enhance capacities of providers for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to ensure availability and accessibility of rights-based information.

7. SRHR policy-making and programming must be evidence based and supported by ethical, gender-sensitive and country-specific research with strong inter-linkages to ICPD, and Agenda 2030.

8. Eliminate all forms of multiple intersecting sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence including intimate partner and non-partner violence, violence perpetuated against LGBTIQ people.