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

My name is Amita Dhanu, and I am speaking on behalf of more than 52 CSOs from 24 Asia and the Pacific countries that attended the CSO preparatory forum held in advance of the MidTerm Review.

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

True accountability requires robust, transparent, effective, participatory and well-monitored mechanisms. In the 2013 Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, Member States committed towards regular monitoring and evaluation by relevant national authorities of progress towards the continuing implementation of PoA of ICPD and its related follow up outcomes.

Recognizing that strong respect for the human rights of all forms the basis of both Agenda 2030 and ICPD PoA and the APPC, regional reviews should also draw upon information and recommendations from the UN human rights mechanisms and documents. This eases the reporting burden of states, and enhances coherence, efficiency and accountability.

Currently, critical dimensions of sustainable development are either poorly or not measured at all in most countries. This includes issues that affect the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, such as the extent of stigma or discrimination, the quality of education, access to health care among adolescents and youth, the quality of health care, and spatial inequalities.

In the absence of a uniform data collection mechanisms to capture such qualitative and disaggregated data, planning and addressing the needs of marginalised and vulnerable populations becomes impossible.

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1 “Charting the way forward- Progress Gaps, and Actions” forum was held 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 24-25 November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

2 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer
To achieve this, a rigorous rights-based and qualitative regional indicator framework for tracking the commitments of 6th APPC beyond Agenda 2030 indicators needs to be developed and implemented. The indicator framework must give effect to the principle of “leaving no one behind,” especially individuals and groups suffering discrimination.

Strengthening national data collection and statistical bodies to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, gender, disabilities, geographical settings, ethnicity, religion, economic, marital, social and migrant status is a key to these efforts. Along with this, adequate financial and human resources and regular capacity building to enhance collection, analysis and dissemination of data and statistics is also needed.

Regular country progress reports on regional and national commitments translated into local languages and shared through public domain for national dissemination is also critical to a transparent system.

Communities from across the regional of Asia and the Pacific should be encouraged and empowered to demand the accountability of governments in the implementation of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (APMDPD) and ICPD PoA.

Thank you.