

APCOM statement

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

Delivered by
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Thank you, Madam Chair, for this opportunity to speak on behalf of civil society organisations.

To the esteemed members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Social Development, to the Secretariat, to the representatives from civil society organizations, and to everyone attending this session physically and on the virtual platform, good afternoon.

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for the opportunity to share our insights on the Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development,

We recognize that this framework is a very important milestone towards achieving the goals and objectives of Program of Action for the International Conference in Population and development, and to the Sustainable Development Goal's overarching principle of *'leaving no one behind.'* We would like to express our support to the draft indicator framework and we look forward to its endorsement.

The report of the 6th Asian and the Pacific Population Conference has made reference about the need to address the vulnerabilities, stigma and discrimination faced by individuals and communities based on sex, gender, age, race, caste, class, migrant status, disability, HIV status and sexual orientation and gender identity. The COVID- 19 pandemic has amplified these vulnerabilities in our communities and has demonstrated to us the need for collaborative action across movements. These intersectional vulnerabilities of LGBTIQ persons are well documented by a number of regional and national studies undertaken by civil society organisations in the recent past. Furthermore, a joint statement by various UN experts released last May 14, 2020 highlighted how COVID-19 and the responses to address it have contributed to existing inequalities and discrimination based on SOGIESC. Contextualising this indicator framework to better inform member states of

our communities' vulnerabilities during this time is critical as we work towards building more resilient systems that sustain us.

We are convinced that the current indicator framework has many entry points to make it even more inclusive including thematic areas on poverty eradication and employment, health, sexual reproductive health services and rights, education, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction among others. We wish to also emphasise that our common goal of leaving no one behind is unattainable if we are not committed to protecting human rights as articulated in the Yogyakarta principles (plus10).

We also call on governments and other stakeholders to ensure meaningful participation of civil organizations including LGBTQI organizations in moving forward with the draft Asia-Pacific indicator framework and other vulnerable populations in various phases including planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Civil society organizations have demonstrated a wealth of knowledge and experience in reaching and delivering sensitive services to marginalized communities and populations. These has been highlighted in the response to COVID-19 which aimed to reach vulnerable populations. Meaningful participation of civil society organizations will result in more sensitive processes in data and evidence building.

An inclusive and accepting policy environment will also contribute to equality and non-discrimination. We believe that we bring with us a wealth of experience and knowledge about the issues and communities we are working on.

We are looking forward to working with the ESCAP CSD members, Secretariat, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to ensuring that the framework and the spaces and processes around it is leaving no one behind.

Thank you Madam Chair.