

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY TO PEOPLE FOR DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE

A collation of Interventions of Civil Society
Representatives delivered at the Asia-Pacific Regional
Consultation on Accountability of Post 2015
Development Agenda

Bangkok, 5-6 August 2014

On 5-6 August 2014, representatives of civil society from the Asia-Pacific region delivered their views on the issue of accountability and monitoring at the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation Meeting on Accountability of Post 2015 Development Agenda. These CSO representatives engaged in the process through Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), a platform initiated, owned and driven by civil society in the region to facilitate the engagement in the regional and global process on the issue of sustainable development.

This paper is a collation of interventions delivered by representatives of civil society as results of collaborative works of CSOs participants at the meeting. They are:

1. Dr. Arjun Karki, International Coordinator for LDC Watch, Nepal
2. Cai Yi Ping, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, China
3. Caridad Janet Carandang, Social Watch Philippines
4. Daya Sagar Shrestha, Non-Governmental Organization Federation of Nepal
5. Prof. Eleanor Briones, Social Watch Philippines
6. George Cherian, Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development India
7. Govind Kelkar, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
8. Grace Balawag, Tebtebba
9. Harvinder Bedi, Centre for Community Economics & Development, Consultants Society (CECODECON), India
10. John Hyde, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
11. Kabita Gautam, BYND2015 Nepal Hub
12. Katsuji Imata, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
13. Manu Shrivastava, Centre for Community Economics & Development, Consultants Society (CECODECON)
14. Marjorie Pamintuan, Asia Pacific Research Network
15. Michel Anglade, Save the Children
16. M. Rezaul Karim Chowdurry, Equity BD, Bangladesh
17. Muhammad Shahidul Islam, Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB)
18. Nalini Singh, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
19. Nurgul Djanaeva, Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
20. Rudolf Bastian Tampubolon, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Youth SENCAP
21. Rose Verona Koenders, Asia Pacific Alliance on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
22. Wardarina, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
23. Zia Ur Rehman, Awaz Centre for Development Services

We have also received inputs from other colleagues from the AP-RCEM, including Rosa Vasquez from PAN-AP, Reileen Dulay and Kate Lappin from Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. The interventions submitted in this paper are also based from previous CSO declarations in the region, such as (1) Bangkok Civil Society Declaration: From Inclusive to Just Development: <http://apwld.org/bangkok-civil-society-declaration-from-inclusive-to-just-development/> and (2) Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development: Advancing People's Agenda for Development at <http://peoplesgoals.org/summary-of-civil-society-recommendations->

[for-the-apfsd/](#), and Asia-Pacific outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing on 10-11 June 2014.

We would like to thank the UN ESCAP for the space for civil society to express our views, be it as panelist, discussants and deliver our interventions from the floor. The 3 days consultation has been an engaging process with rich inputs from the member states, panelists, as well as UN agencies.

Lastly, Asia Pacific CSO are ready to play an active role in holding states to account as well as providing constructive recommendations on how to achieve the goals, and how to target them at national and local levels through localized indicators and regional strategies. But we need to do that with the knowledge that this agenda will also create the global, regional and national mechanisms required to genuinely transform global governance, a global governance that aims for development justice and to aim to reduce and redistribute power, wealth, resources between countries, within countries and between men and women.

Panel 1.

**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE POST 2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

by: Prof. Leonor Magtolis Briones

Lead Convener, Social Watch Philippines

Discussant on Session 1. Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015
Development Agenda
August 5, 2014

Opening Remarks

At my ripe old age, I never expected to see the day when a panel in a UN-ESCAP meeting held in Asia would be composed completely of women! Session has eight panelists and discussants--all women. This is something to celebrate!

I. Comments of Civil Society Organizations on national leadership on accountability

In preparation for this meeting, CSO's have been meeting virtually as well as physically to discuss the subject and in order to come up with a statement reflecting our views on the subject. Allow me to mention at least four of our points of agreement:

- a. The accountability of leadership is at three levels: national, regional and global. The most important level of accountability is at the national level. The accountability of leadership is to the people.
- b. Each country has its own system of monitoring. The proposed monitoring system in a country cannot be separated from its national monitoring and accountability system. Social Watch organizations, as well as other CSO's have developed their own alternative or parallel monitoring systems, against which the performance of their governments are measured. Examples are Equity Index, Quality of Life Index, the Alternative Budget Initiative, and the Alternative MDG report.
- c. Good governance is an important component of accountability. Planning and budget accountability is crucial to the success of SDGs.
- d. The role of CSO's in achieving the SDGs is indispensable. An enabling environment has to be created to enhance this role through laws, multi-stakeholder dialogues, participation in official development programs and inclusion of CSO's in country delegations.

II. Comment on the Presentation of the Panelists

- a. The point about decentralization of accountability framework well taken. It is important to make local government units accountable for it is at their level that most of the SDG commitments will be delivered.
- b. The importance of timely, accurate and meaningful statistics to ensure accountability cannot be ignored. My professor in statistics constantly reminded us: "Figures do not lie but liars figure." Calculations about poverty levels, distribution of the gross domestic product, levels of employment and gender equity have sometimes been the subject of manipulation and changes of formula.
- c. Gender budgeting should go beyond a particular percentage of an agency budget. Each budget item has to be scrutinized and disaggregated.
- d. Accountability of donors should also be emphasized.
- e. capacity building should not be limited to cso's and different groups. It should include media.

Joint Statement.

Intervention Panel 1. National Leadership on the Accountability and Monitoring Framework for Post 2015

Speakers:

Rezaul M. Chowdurry (Equity BD), Nurgul Djanaeva (Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan), Ms. Harvinder Bed (Centre for Community Economics & Development, Consultants Society - CECODECON) also speak on behalf of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

We need to focus on accountability at all levels – international, regional and national including in outreach is strong component in the sustainable development. We found there are three factors that are important for SDG implementation, as follow:

- Democratic ownership of the development rather considering it is a sole government ownership
- Defining the term “ Accountability” in multidimensional approach rather than in a linear approach
- And finally considering CSO participation as important part of development.

On Democratic Ownership, at the end, state is the responsible for its citizen and peoples, so it is the responsibility of the state on how to facilitate different multi dimensional forces for development, and it should not be the only party in power and its beaucrates are the only drivers of development. State should facilitate other important forces, especially party in opposition, media, civil societies, local governments, etc. So it is the reasons time has to came to accept the notion of Democratic Ownership of the development, rather them narrow government ownership.

We need to define the term accountability from the participatory democracy perspective, then we should propose some principles in this regard, which should be (i) it should be transparent and inclusive, rather than closed and exclusive, (ii) it should regular and systemic rather than occasional and wishful, (iii) it should be mutual and two way, rather than one sided and top down, and finally (iv) it should be result oriented not only for the sake of accountability for accountability.

If we consider Bangladesh as a LDC who has successful in MDG amidst its climate change impact and confrontational politics, then we have to take one great news that there was a vibrant civil society. But now a day we are getting disturbing news from countries that there are different rules and means is being in the formation to clips CSO activism. There are clear cut declarations in Paris, Accra and Bussan that CSO has to be considered as a important part of democracy and development, taking this in view we are proposing four proposal in this regard, (i) accept right of initiative of diverse stakeholders, (ii) create enabling environment by policy and practices, (iii)

create equal spaces with equality in all level, (iv) giving spaces in official bilateral aid negation and implementation.

We must not forget the role of LOCAL GOVERNMENT as an important actor in development, especially if we want to root the development on sustainable basis among the people

Panel 2.

Regional Platforms for Accountability - Role and Functions for Asia and the Pacific

By: Govind Kelkar

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Panelist Speaker on Panel 2 Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

August 5, 2014

I would really talk about about what has been in the major concern of civil society in the region, and some proposals to overcome this concern. One is the deepened poverty with growth economy, second the deepened inequalities between countries, within countries, and gender and social inequalities. Third, we can not talk about sustainable development if half of the population of the world is suffering from violence within home and outside homes. High violence against women within and private and public sphere is one of the major concern on civil society in the region. Fourth, environmentally destructive pattern of consumption and production along with climate change impacts.

Ensuring accountability to peoples means implementing fundamental structural changes in order to overcome these concerns, in political economic governance and also reoriented production and consumption patterns in consultation with civil society. CSOs in the region have called for Development Justice with five transformative shifts, which are: 1) Redistributive Justice where governments need reduce inequalities between and within countries, 2) Economic Justice including ensuring decent work so people can live in dignity, 3) Social Justice including through eliminate discriminatory laws and policies on the basis of gender and sexual orientation, gender parity in political economic governance in decision making – I think we should not misled with the number of representation of women here, eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and impunity of all violence against women at home and public places, 4) Ecological Justice, and 5) Accountability to Peoples, means implementation required a democratic and just governance in the regional level. It means ensuring transparency that enables peoples to have informed decisions of their lives, their communities and their future.

Aside giving voice to the voiceless, accountability should also means giving power to the powerless – it means sharing power and resources, particularly in term of distribution of assets like land and other kind of resources and capabilities. It also means hold to account the powerful at home, in the community, at the state and state officials, power of other states and power of corporations. In that sense, accountability needs to pay attention to the youth, women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups to be part of free, prior and informed decision making. It also needs to develop local capacities and innovation, not only transfer of technologies.

Accountability is the single most important matter for the APFSD and indeed the whole post2015 agenda to address. The negotiated language of the final text will matter little if there are no effective accountability mechanisms. APFSD should ensure

- Further strengthen and institutionalise the civil society participation and gender-balanced and gender sensitivity in all sustainable development process. This could be done through formalising Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) that is owned and driven by CSO in the Asia Pacific.
- Respect for national spaces, but also build peer-review mechanism at the regional and sub-regional level.
- Lastly, women's participation in adequate numbers, as well as the participation of other marginalised and excluded social groups, such as indigenous peoples, dalits in evaluating performance on sustainable development. We should leave no one behind, but also letting no one get away.

Panel 2.

Regional Platforms for Accountability - Role and Functions for Asia and the Pacific

By: John Hyde

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
Discussant on Panel 2 Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015
Development Agenda
August 5, 2014

Parliamentarians have a key role in making sure accountability to people is central to the Post 2015 accountability mechanism, with transparent targets and measurable results.

A crucial role for national parliamentarians is to hold their governments to account and provide every opportunity for their constituents, through civil society and the media, to have access to the new accountability system. It is a priority for governments to commit to tabling their Post 2015 commitments, targets and measurement in their parliaments and enable dialogue and debate in the parliament. It is also incumbent that the same discussions and debates can occur on the ground in regional and remote constituencies as well.

Clear, measurable targets in the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) enabled parliamentarians and civil society to assess government actions and resourcing in a non-threatening, more measurable way which was evidence-based and results-oriented.

AFPPD, in collaboration with National Parliaments and CSOs, organised in 2012 and 2013 three Asia-Pacific regional forums on Parliamentarians and the post 2015 agenda (Manila in Nov. 2012, Dhaka in Dec. 2012 and Bali in March 2013). It is vital to continue these regional efforts and to ensure that parliamentarians are familiar with the post 2015 development agenda process; national Ministries of Foreign Affairs should report on the Open Working Group process and on the positions promoted by the MoFA during the Open Working Group process. MPs should also ensure that adequate budgeting can support the Post 2015 goals and targets. Asia-Pacific is the largest of the UN regions and we must ensure that the diverse needs and concerns of all our sub-regions are represented. Sub-regional fora in the Pacific have enabled our most isolated and under-resourced nations to be better prepared and more able to contribute to a regional and global agenda.

The UN Sec-Gen calls on us to look to the regional peer review mechanisms that are central pillars of accountability frameworks. In our Asia-Pacific region, the 2011 "Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption" provides a model that encompasses country peer review and expert panels. But we need to embrace a mechanism for Post 2015 that includes parliamentarians and civil society in its assessment expert panels. If our focus is just on expert technical measurement we are not being transparent and accountable to the people of our countries, particularly those most at risk and marginalised:

results measure the impact of change, policies and resources on people. We need to hear from the people and their representatives who are being directly impacted.

Parliamentarians and civil society are then able to feed into regional fora such as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). If APFSD is to function as our key regional platform for monitoring and review, integrated into the global High Level Political Forum, then there has to be agreement in the mechanism on mandatory inclusion of parliamentarians and civil society in country delegations as well as entities in the Forum itself.

The inaugural session of the APFSD in Pattaya in May this year, enabled, at the discretion of the chair only, a good level of civil society engagement in discussion sessions. The new mechanism needs to formalise this involvement in all mechanisms as well as parliamentarian and civil society inclusion in outcome document processes.

AFPPD as a network of parliamentarian champions is also progressing results-focused advocacy orientation towards issues of Post 2015 - particularly paying attention to key elements within population and development. CSOs must also be able to measure their own engagements so as we can be a viable and knowledgeable monitor of development goals not only of governments but also of ourselves.

In Post 2015, the Sec-Gen says that we are moving towards broad agreement on the need for a sustainable development agenda; on the need to ensure that poverty eradication, social justice and environmental concerns are taken together in one framework.

What we now need is agreement on a true accountability mechanism with participation of all development actors, which can only be truly transparent if there is also genuine involvement of parliamentarians and civil society to monitor, review and evaluate the results.

Joint AP-RCEM Statement.

Regional Platforms for Accountability - Role and Functions for Asia and the Pacific

Speakers:

Nurgul Dzanaeva (Forum of Women's NGO of Kyrgyzstan), Zia Ur Rehman (Awaz Centre for Development Service Pakistan) and Kabita Gautam (BYND2015 Nepal Hub) also speak on behalf of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

The approach of the regional accountability process and mechanism should be based on participatory democracy, and should be integrated in the existing regional mechanisms of human rights, including Beijing+20, etc.

A new accountability and monitoring framework in the region should ensure an institutional space for CSOs, including strengthening the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism – a platform for CSO to engage in the intergovernmental process in the regional and global level on sustainable development – and increasing its' recognition at sub-regional and national level.

It should follow these following principles of accountability: 1) Systematic – with mechanism through consultation, feedback mechanism, 2) Regularity – at least once a year, 3) Openness – with immediate access to all, 4) Inclusiveness – with participation of actors, beneficiaries, constituencies at all levels of monitoring, 5) timeliness and 6) result oriented.

National and regional level accountability processes need to be strengthened to make sure the involvement of all stockholders. We can learn from Traffic Light Paper (TLP) being released by South Asian Conference on Sanitation every year on the commitments made by south Asian states to do the follow up and this really working and pushing states to keep their promises on right to sanitation.

Joint Accountability Mechanisms are required with multi stakeholders involvement particularly of government and CSOs, and such framework/ mechanism should be comprehensive, simple, workable, effectively resourced, owned by the political leaderships, open and transparent, trackable through independent and credible systems.

Digitalization of information may not ensure inclusiveness for people and women living in rural area, therefore various means of implementation are required to ensure meaningful engagements of all at all levels. Accountability friendly information should be reached to all openly, transparently in local languages particularly to make sure the accountability process more inclusive and comprehensive.

We appeal for regional bodies to enable and push national governments for creating platforms for young people engagement in national accountability mechanisms. We see monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes as an opportunity for young people by engaging them in and move faster towards accountability which will benefit both the stakeholders by increasing human resources and providing a platform of decent works.

While talking about technology transfer our generation needs the advancement with the latest models, capacity building, fulfilling the gaps between Asia Pacific and other regions, including the gaps within the region.

We urge to develop a mechanism for the budget mobilization for young people engagement in development process from regional level and invest more on creating a platform for young people for their innovation and initiative that targets for sustainable development of their communities.

It is a plus point for Asia Pacific region that the high population lives within this region that can be mobilized for both data collection, tracking, sharing and bring revolution as well as the regional bodies including national bodies should take advantages of being youth in this region very active in social media.

Session 3. Accountability and Renewed Global Partnership

Speakers:

Rose Koenders (Asia Pacific Alliance on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights),
Manu Shrivasta (CECODECON) and Arjun Karki (LDC Watch)

We wish to bring to your attention that more than 70% population in India and South Asia for that matter is rural and engaged in agriculture directly or indirectly. These small and medium holder farmers, who practice sustenance agriculture, and landless farmers live on the threshold of poverty. Bilateral and multi-lateral trade agreements have made them more vulnerable. Not to mention the adverse impacts of climate change. These agreements that were brought in the name of development have in fact distribution them further. Existing accountability mechanisms have failed to deliver justice.

We should define what is a “renewed” global partnership by learning from the past. While the increasing role that South-South cooperation has been recognized, this should not be seen as a substitute for North-South cooperation. The main channel by which means of implementation and global partnership has thus far been carried out, and should continue to be, is based on North-South relations and cooperation. The challenge will be to ensure that the commitment of Financing for Development is NOT transferred to South-South cooperation.

What accountability framework is needed in a renewed partnerships? From experience of MDGs, which didn't have clear means of implementation that outlines each stakeholder roles and accountability and mechanisms, resulted in the lack of progress on goal 8. We would like to focus on four proposals to strengthen an accountability framework:

1. To establish an open, transparent and participatory intergovernmental space for oversight, monitoring and review any partnership developed in the name of sustainable development.
2. To include a reporting mechanism and to continue the peer review mechanisms that include the voices of civil society, and peer reviews as mentioned this morning that have worked well.
3. To utilize the human rights architecture, including treaty bodies, special procedures including special rapporteurs, and the universal peer review mechanisms as instrumental tools for accountability. Also, this renewed partnership asks for governments to complement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. We support the recent decision from UN Human Rights Commission proceeding toward legally binding obligation for Transnational Corporations.
4. Global partnership for development must be an agreement between ALL the development actors to achieve a new development agenda that is honest, genuine and real. This, and the earlier mentioned needed trust by the panel, requires **an enabling environment for CSO participation, removing barriers to access decision making on these matters. Accountability is to make informed choices.** CSOs can ONLY be effective as fully

independent development actors. Global partnership should reflect a partnership that is inclusive and include proportional representation of CS, including those most marginalized, and an environment that doesn't allow discrimination based on sex, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity.

On the issue of financing for sustainable development, new and innovative sources of financing can be important, but they are additional to ODA and other public development financing, and are not an excuse or method to reduce traditional development finance. D) 15istributio of 0.7 % of GNP and 1 % to LDC and developed countries,

At the same time, innovative financing has meaningful scope, and potential sources that do not rely on public budgets include, for example, financial transaction taxes and the issuing of SDRs for sustainable development needs and through need-based, rather than IMF quota-based, allocation methods. We need to strengthen mandate and role of UN Tax committee to stop illicit financial flow, and stop tax haven by developed countries. Participation of LDCs in G20 process to decide bank and tax transparency obligations, ie, there are some already some positive steps from G20 leaded by Australia lunching BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) discourse, which will lead to the reduction in illicit financial process, which is \$ 9 to developed countries while only \$ 1 as aid to developing countries form developed countries.

Cancelling debt of developing countries based on poverty ration and SDG achievement flow / effort as an encouragement and incentive. Debt cancellation should not be considered in view of "Debt to export ration as prescribed by World Bank" which was opposed by previous UNSG Kofi Annan too.

As mentioned earlier, food security is fundamental as in respect of SDG food should be considered as basic human right, so we support India's position in WTOs, ie, price support to agri products to the farmers, public stock holding and subsidized public distribution sytem, We should not consider food is a matter of blatant or open commercialization process. Therefore, we call for international trade agreements to embrace the three pillars of sustainability and reflect and respect the RIGHT to food and livelihood security. Global partnership in the new development agenda must be participatory and inclusive to the very core

We reiterate the climate vulnerable countries (CVC) on there demand on early fullfilement of developed country commitment on climate financing ie \$ 30 billion by 2020 and per year \$ 100 billions form 2020.

Joint Statement.
Panel 4. Innovation of partnership for the future we want
– the role of private sector

Speakers:

Marjorie Pamintuan (Asia Pacific Research Network), Grace Balawang (Tebtebba) and Cai Yi Ping (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era – DAWN) also speak on behalf of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

CSOs also feel that there is need to differentiate among the diverse range of private sector actors, and we appreciate the statements being made here that we need to take care of SMEs. However, we would like to call attention to the accountability of corporations who because of globalization have grown so large and powerful that they can influence development policies and strategies at all levels, and because of this, impact the lives and livelihoods of people negatively or positively.

A binding framework ensuring the accountability of corporations to the people is needed because private sector participation is among the solutions to several global challenges in the post-2015 development agenda. However, their activities also have had severe impacts on the human and collective rights, especially of indigenous peoples and the communities where they operate. Governments are equally accountable for the results of corporate activities since they provide the enabling or disabling environment for corporations and it also their responsibility to protect the people and provide access to remedy.

We fully appreciate the reiteration of some of our panelists and discussants today and yesterday, on one of our most important concern on the implementation of human rights-based approach to sustainable development, which includes clear business ethics, corporate responsibilities and accountabilities, together with social and environmental protection and safeguards. For the future sustainable development goals and post 2015 development agenda, the important role of private sector towards innovations and partnerships, is of utmost importance in ensuring environmental and social accountabilities, in making sure human rights principles are fully adhered by private sector by providing dignified work places, without discrimination according to gender, gender identity, and ethnicity, among others.

As mentioned by the UN-ESCAP Secretary, we also recommend reference to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR), which should serve as a guide for states and private sector, in ensuring the social and environmental accountabilities of corporations, and on public-private partnerships. These guiding principles clearly reiterate the responsibility of the states to protect and respect human rights as the minimum standard for businesses wherever they operate; and in securing accountability and effective redress for people impacted by business operations. This serves as a global standard for checking and responding to adverse impacts on human rights, and on other violations on social and environmental safeguards, as a result of public and private sector operations. Representing indigenous peoples, one of our basic concerns is an increasing investment of public-private partnerships, especially on extractive industries within the remaining world's natural resources, which are most often located within the lands, resources and territories of Indigenous peoples and local communities. These are causing displacements and more impoverishment of indigenous peoples and local communities, and due to

the active defense of our lands and resources for survival, there is also a trend now to criminalize our human rights defenders and leaders.

As UN reported, there are at least 350 million indigenous peoples around the world, which is 5% of the global population, and 15 % of the poorest of the poor are amongst indigenous peoples. The majority (2/3) of indigenous peoples are in Asia-Pacific region, who continue to be marginalized and discriminated. With this, it is thereby important to understand and respect the human rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples, workers, women and youth, among other sectors of the the civil society, as critical partners in achieving sustainable development.

Having said this, our main ask is on how do the states and private sector perceive the human rights accountability mechanism to work? Corporate social responsibility is great, but this should go further to the fulfillment of human rights accountabilities by public-private partnerships and the private sector.

Role of Private Sector in Financing for Sustainable Development

Financial flows to developing countries mainly through foreign direct investment, followed by the overseas development assistance, then philanthropy. As public resources for development assistance are scarce, the private sector is increasingly looked at as an important additional source of external finance and domestic resource mobilization.

However, about 90 percent of jobs in developing countries are created by the private sectors, but only about one-fourth of the working-age population in developing countries is engaged in productive and decent employment, while more than 900 million workers are living in households with incomes below the two US dollars a day poverty line, in particular, women and large cohorts of young people are without decent jobs and living wage for people to live with dignity.

As mobilizing private sector funding for development are relatively new areas of development policy, it entails the need to critical review of existing policies and new instruments and programs, monitoring and evaluating its impact, with the participation of CSOs and representation of the affected communities. For example, the policies that aim at creating an enabling business and sound regulatory environment that is conducive to private investment, trade and job creation. Did they work? How? Why? And why not?

We would like to reiterate the points made by the panelists and distinguished delegates that the developmental role of the state should be reinforced and public financing must be prioritized over Public-Private Partnerships, especially in relation to the provision of the basic public services like health, water, sanitation, education and etc. Sustainable development involves the multiple actors/partners, as we discussed these two days: Overall there is a need for trust and transparency between all partners and all partners need to be held accountable for their results.

To ensure corporate accountability, CSOs would like to propose the following:

- There is a need for common performance standards, universal measurement techniques and a global sharing platform and accountability mechanism that include financial, social and

environmental wellbeing and human rights, which are recognized by the UN treaties and instruments.

- **Frame partnerships with private sector, especially with corporations, within the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** and supplement these principles with binding enforcement measures, including legislation, adjudication and penalties for violations.
- We wish to reiterate that CSR is not the same as complying with the UNGP as erring corporations can launch CSR projects and can violate human rights at the same time.
- **Support the United Nations Human Rights Council draft Resolution** regarding the *“Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights”*
- **At the regional level and global level consider reinstating an equivalent of the former UN Center on Transnational Corporations** to monitor TNCs and help ensure that States respect their commitments to regulate them.
- At all levels, **ensure participation of CSOs and local communities** in mechanisms ensuring the accountability of corporations, and with that, help them keep the public good, the public welfare at heart.
- **Trade policies.** Trade policies should be subjected to public deliberation and debate. Presumed beneficiaries should be able to voice out their concerns, provide substantial inputs, and be given sufficient space and power in assessing and evaluating trade policies.
- **Financial partnerships with private sector.** Ensure that international and national financing partnerships with the private sector are subject to mandatory accountability safeguards to ensure that these re creating decent work and contribution to the expansion if the domestic tax base rather than tax evasion.
- TNCs are being blamed for **illicit financial flows**. These has happened mostly due to transfer pricing and tax havens. G20 led by Australia now working on BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) process to have some control on this, OECD is coming up with some bank and transparency for these TNCs in this regard. But these process has little participation especially from LDCs, and these process has little global legitimacy. So CSO demand strengthen and expand the mandate of UN Tax committee, so that there will be global standard of bank and tax transparency, country by country reporting of TNC, auditing standard etc. G20 and OECD should also consider to take participation LDC’s participation in there process too. All above developed countries should come forward to stop there tax havens, countries should also come forward in stopping tax competing in agreeing universal guidelines.

Joint Statement.

Closing Remark of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanisms

by: Wardarina
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
also speak on behalf of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

The Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanisms welcomes and congratulates UNESCAP for organising the first Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post 2015 Development Agenda. We also are appreciative of the Asia Pacific member states as well as the wider stakeholders represented here for the discussions on the issues of accountability in ensuring that people are at the centre of development. While we welcome this opportunity to engage in this process we have the following comments to strengthen the outcome document from this consultation so that it reflects the discussions:

On national Leadership on Accountability for the Post 2015 Development Agenda: We appreciate the acknowledgment of Democratic Ownership and parallel bottom up gender budgeting, monitoring and assesment process. This could be further strengthened with the inclusion of the following:

- **Acknowledging CSO as important factor** in the process and urging government to creating equitable spaces with appropriate policies and practices as enabling environment.
- **Strengthening national level leadership accountability**, it should be decentralized, regular, open, systemic and result oriented, with distinct role of CSOs and donor in the process.
- **The important role of media and local government to facilitate accountability in SDG.**

We welcome the acknowledgement of the key concerns in **Regional Platform for Accountability & Accountability and a Renewed Global Partnership,**

On Innovation of partnership for the future we want – the role of private sector, we appreciate the engaging and enriching discussion during the session. However, the outcome document needs to reflect the panelists, member states and other stakeholders' discussions and recommendations, particularly on **legally binding corporate accountability, public financing should be prioritised over private-public partnership,** It is important to note and reiterate that governments need to regulate the private sector – including to address illicit financial flow, transfer pricing and tax haven. and there should not be an over reliance on donor – including international financial institutions - and foreign direct investment.

Accountability must ensure that we can hold states accountable for their extra territorial obligations and for their obligations to international solidarity. In particular we must create systems that hold corporations to account for their pernicious impact on sustainable development where systemic violations occur. A system where we can get remedies, or in ensuring that regional, international institutions (IFIs) are held to account or that trade agreements and other multi-lateral process will be accountable and reformed to support this agenda.

In the conclusion section, we recommend an accurate reflection of the analysis of the two-days discussion. Additionally, we highlight that strategies and action for promoting accountability is must include local/national governments, CSOs, UN and donors as well as other stakeholders.

Madam chair, civil society are ready to play an active role in holding states to account as well as providing constructive recommendations on how to achieve the goals and how to target them at national and local levels through localized indicators and regional strategies. But we need to do that with the knowledge that this agenda will also create the global, regional and national mechanisms required to **genuinely** transform global governance so that sustainable development can be achieved.

The kind of governance that give VOICE to the VOICELESS, and POWER to the POWERLESS, and hold account the powerful at home, in the community, at the state and state officials, power of other states and power of corporations.

We think that APFSD should provide a space to re-think the regional perspective and drive a new vision. where all peoples benefit, where growth is not predicated on cheap labour of women, of land-grabbing and foreign investment. One where the countries in this region and their people shape a future that will be livable for many generations. That requires a new approach to accountability where its possible for people in the region to challenge practices and decisions of the most powerful, and to strive for development justice.