

Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism Response to the Synthesis Report of the Secretary General on the Post-2015 Agenda

The Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) welcomes the positive elements of the SG synthesis report such as the universal principles of human rights, global solidarity, right to development, recognizing the free prior informed consent of indigenous peoples, common but differentiated responsibilities, and an aim to achieve climate justice. We also welcome the correct identification of the problem on deepening inequalities and the improved language on the issue of trade, financing and accountability. We also endorse the attention given to Science and Technology and Innovation, as a Means of Implementation. We appreciate the acknowledgment that volunteerism can be another powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation and that volunteerism can help to expand and mobilize constituencies and engage people in national planning and implementation for sustainable development goals.

However we are equally disappointed, as the report remains business as usual. This threatens to overshadow any positive points that may be gleaned on the goals and targets as it fails to move away from the neoliberal framework and the imperative of economic growth which does not ultimately commit to dismantling the rules and systems that enable the gross inequalities of wealth, power, and resources between countries, between rich and poor, between men and women and other social group. We believe the analytic link of the current economic and environmental crisis with major key issues such as debt servicing, impacts of neoliberal policies, environmental destruction and the erosion of social justice, need to remain adequately expressed in order to give the generation “charged with a duty to transform our societies” a fair chance to do so. If a truly transformative framework is not put in place in the post-2015 agenda, then such an agenda will just be wearing a new coat but will essentially carry the policies that have led the world’s people in multiple, long-running and far-reaching crisis.

On the Clustering of the SDGs

The clustering of the SDGs into six (6) essential elements– Dignity, People, Planet, Partnership, Justice, and Prosperity –is quite problematic since the report does not provide any clarity on the link between the OWG’s 17 SDG to the six elements, or how the OWG’s 17 goals will be maintained or collapsed into the 6 elements.

Moreover, the clustering risks undermining some of the goals that have been consistently pushed by G77+China (a grouping of over 130 countries) and civil society, including Goal 10 – Reduce inequality within and among nations, and Goal 17 - Means of Implementation. Without these goals, the SDGs will not be genuinely transformative and meaningful.

Although there are considerable shortcomings within the OWG’s Outcome Document and the SDGs, we believe it provided the breadth of goals that reflects the current challenges we need to address, and should be used as the main basis of the next negotiations. We firmly reject any attempt to streamline, cluster, or otherwise reduce the range of current goals.

Lacking Commitment for Development Justice

This response submission is a joint analysis of the SG Synthesis Report through the lens of Development Justice. Development Justice is a model that more than 100 civil society networks and groups in the Asia Pacific region have promoted that will deliver sustainable, just and equitable development. Development Justice requires Redistributive Justice, Economic Justice, Gender and Social Justice, Environmental Justice and Accountability to the Peoples.

1. Redistributive Justice

A transformative development agenda should urgently address the asymmetrical international economic order that has historically stripped developing countries of their resources and limited their domestic policy space to implement development and human-rights-oriented decisions. This is apparent in functioning of international trade, capital markets, and international financial institutions and agencies, which have further escalated the gross inequalities and poverty for people in Asia-Pacific.

We acknowledged that the synthesis report made efforts to provide stronger and more equitable elements than both the OWG and ICESDF reports.

We welcome the recognition of the need for 'urgent action to correct the inequities of international system to the disadvantage of developing countries, a more equitable multilateral trading system, fair representation of emerging and developing countries in international financial and economic decision making, better regulation in the international financial and monetary system, and sustainable debt solutions, and the need to remedy the policy incoherence between current modes of international governance in matters of trade, finance, and investments; and norms and standards for labour, the environment, human rights, equality and sustainability (paragraph 95). This should act as a basis principle for the next negotiations of Post 2015 Development Agenda.

However, we would like to highlight several gaps and weaknesses that need to be strengthened, which we outline below :

- **Income Inequality is not Enough** - While the report has specifically stated that income inequality is one of the most visible aspects of inequality and is a challenge that the whole world must address, we have consistently argued that income inequality is not a sufficient indicator of inequitable development. We have advocated for a wealth distribution indicator (using for example the Palma ratio), progressive taxation, and redistributive financial policies. Moreover, ability to access land is increasingly recognised as strongly correlated to poverty, and a more relevant indicator of poverty than dollars per day. Furthermore, when considering inequality, unequal access to income is insufficient. Issues of unequal access to resources, structural impediments and power relations that interplay with inequality and impede development must be considered. At the same time, inequality manifests in different ways and related inter-sectionalities i.e. how social characterizations, such race, class and gender apply to individuals and groups and how these can create and exacerbate discrimination or disadvantage, have to be addressed when addressing inequality in development.
- **The report does not uphold food sovereignty**, Guaranteeing access to and control over land, including through the elimination of land-grabbing are essential to poverty reduction and food sovereignty. We are calling for land redistribution and the need to genuinely integrate food sovereignty in laws and policies, without compromising the rights of indigenous peoples over their land, territories, and resources. Our key concern is that while the document includes a reference to the issue of displacement, it fails to recognise or make any references to the escalating trend of land-grabbing in developing countries. In fact, throughout the document, there are only two references in relation to land, which are on sustainable management of marine and terrestrial ecosystem and land use (paragraph 53) and on equal access of women and girls to financial resources, and the right to own land and other assets (paragraph 69).

The report also does not respond and address the monopoly control of the wealthy few over investment resources and finances; the corporate capture of natural resources; and the neo-

colonial plunder of the Global South's resources by wealthy developed nations and their multinational and transnational corporations.

- **The report does not address harmful conditionalities of ODA**, We welcome the specific call for developed countries to meet the 0.7% target and agree to concrete timetables to meet ODA commitments, and also to ensure that the proportion of ODA going to LDCs does not decline but is increased, be better targeted, more efficient, more transparent and that leverages additional resources (paragraph 79). However, we regretted that the SG synthesis report does not explicitly prohibit the attachment of harmful conditionalities to ODA and other forms of financing by international financial institutions and nor does it provide for binding obligations of States to meet their commitments.
- **The call to re-examine the role, accountability and governance of IFI is weak**, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have a long record of harmful role, policies and practices that have impacted rural, indigenous peoples, migrant and urban poor women in the region. Our demand 'to fully examine the role, policies and practices of IFI and hold them to account' was not taken by the SG synthesis report. We regret that the report only recommend for IFI to 'consider establishing a process to examine the role, scale and functioning of multilateral and regional development finance institutions to make them more responsive to the sustainable development agenda' (paragraph 109).
- **No indication to democratize control and benefits of science and technology/ICT**, Essential in unleashing the power of science and technology in meeting sustainable development is the ownership and control of technology. Existing intellectual proprietary regimes have been geared towards building monopolies and propping up profits rather than the pursuit of the common good and addressing big problems of poverty, climate change, and inequality. ICTs must be seen and treated as a 'universal enabler' and should be provided as a universal service, and in a manner that ensures a level playing field for all, in the new digitally enabled social systems and structures. It should be used for decentralizing power and institutions instead of centralizing them, as often happen. It should be integrated in all development efforts, with due attention to core principles of openness, decentralization, horizontalisation, transparency and participation.

There is seemingly discrimination that the development of sustainable technologies as something to be accessed only by developing countries not something they can develop themselves. Country-driven development, based on the perspective and needs of the people rather than in compliance to objectives and conditionalities for debt servicing that deprives budget allocation for people oriented sustainable development, must be put in place.

2. Economic Justice

We are glad that the Synthesis Report's renewed emphasis on the need to translate economic growth to shared prosperity and to come up with alternative measures of progress from GDP to one that adequately accounts for human wellbeing, justice, social progress, sustainability, and equity. This is especially important for developing countries where most trade agreements and investments treaties have been found to curtail their capacity to handle crises, protect their economies, deliver services to their people, and ensure sustainable development. The report, as with most of its stated ambitions, however, falls short in addressing crucial issues and in providing concrete recommendations.

- **Primacy of Private Sector Financing**, we welcome the report's highlight on the need to predicate private sector involvement on social/environmental accountability, and has taken up our call to ensure investment policies are in line with international standards on business and human rights, core labour standards of the ILO, and the United Nations environmental

standards (paragraph 105. However, it is alarming that the report still emphasises ‘the urgent action to mobilise, redirect and unlock the transformative power of trillions of dollars of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives, including the need for foreign direct investment (FDI) in critical sectors, such as sustainable energy, infrastructure and transportation’ (paragraph 92). Again, governments are encouraged to provide incentive structures to attract investments. This is alarming given that as per the experience of many nations in the Global South, FDI liberalization has greatly sapped the resources and weakened their economies, while it has definitely favored wealthy countries and their transnational companies and banks. This, we fear will further justify the liberalization of investment in land and resources, agriculture, promoting large-scale land purchases or leases, escalating land grabbing and violence, and further impoverish rural, indigenous women. The elevated role of the private sector in development cooperation undermines the principle of international solidarity and a global partnership for development, and further strengthens the dominance and corporate interest in the formulation of policies and operation of global markets, that has been one of the basic reasons for the current inequities globally, as well as the climate crisis.

Dilution of Decent Work, We are alarmed to see the UN SG’s Synthesis Report dilute the commitment to the Decent Work agenda through the reference only to decent jobs. Decent Work¹ provides a broader framework, a recognised international standard and is used consistently in the OWG negotiations, as well being clearly articulated in Goal 8 of the SDGs. The synthesis report focuses on access to employment but does not refer to the essential elements of rights at work nor social dialogue. A commitment to rights at work should also address the right to equal pay for work of equal value, maternity and parental rights, employment security, living wages amongst others. Also, the report does not recognize diverse local economies, customary resource management, and traditional livelihoods/occupations practiced by indigenous peoples and local communities as central to economic development and decent work. On the positive side, we strongly commend the reference to a living wage in the Synthesis Report. A living wage is a necessary element to reduce inequality. It should be institutionalized in order to support the ability of family to live.

- **Absence of Unpaid Care Work,** The report does not refer to ‘unpaid care work’ as provisioned in the OWG Outcome Document. We urge the inclusion of ‘Universally recognize, value and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of accessible quality public services, investment in infrastructure and in labor saving domestic technology and universal social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family
- **No clear measures on how to eliminate specific barriers to women’s access to resources,** In the context of economic growth, employment, social protection and access to resources, especially financial services, women are conflated with “persons with disabilities, youth, aged, and migrants” (para 72), suggesting that the different gender norms that influences women’s engagement in the economy, social protection structures and financial services have not been adequately considered. The Report does suggest that “Specific barriers to women’s access to finance should be eliminated” (para 107), but without any further gendered analysis it is not clear how this will be accomplished.
- **Report still fall short on taxing the corporations and harmful industries,** we support the call to consider establishing an intergovernmental committee on tax cooperation under UN

¹ According to the International Labor Organisation, the Decent Work Agenda should have four strategic objectives, with gender equality as a cross-cutting objective. These objectives are: creating jobs (generating opportunities for investment, entrepreneurship, skills development, job creation and sustainable livelihoods); guaranteeing rights at work (including workers’ representation and participation); extending social protection (guaranteeing a minimum living wage, safe working conditions, and essential social security to all in need) and promoting social dialogue (through workers’ and employers’ organizations’ effective participation). See 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@cabinet/documents/publication/wcms_099766.pdf

auspices (paragraph 115). This was a critical suggestion in the earlier discussion in ICESDF which was unfortunately dropped in the final report. We also appreciate the strong encouragement to implement tax reforms, including financial transaction taxes (paragraph 112), which is necessary for improving domestic resource mobilization for sustainable development. However, key recommendations from civil society for global corporate taxation and taxation on harmful industries are not recognized in the report. Recommendations still fall short of addressing the redistribution of wealth and full realization of human rights.

- **The report does not address the root causes of forced migration and vulnerable employment**, the report rightfully recognizes the rights of migrants. Importantly, under the section of “Financing our Future” calls for “reduce costs on the transfer of remittances” (paragraph 117), in a way that is fully consistent with the rights of migrants. This is a critical recommendation for moving away from remittance-driven development that only increases the vulnerability of migrants to violations of their rights and systematizes labor exports. However, thought the reduction of remittance cost is positive for migrant workers, to put such proposal under financing development is tantamount to migration for development – a framework on migration that grassroots migrant workers have been opposing. Such a framework sanitizes the current migration trend that is forced, commodifies the labour of migrants, and promotes migrants as cheap and disposable labour. It is an endorsement of labour export program as a development strategy that has been historically proven by people in countries engaged in the business of labour export as unsustainable and false. It also does not address the violations of labour, social, political and cultural rights of migrants in host countries. Priority should instead be given to realizing decent work and living wages in sending countries.

3. Gender and Social Justice

- **The needs to go beyond rhetoric**, the Report does commit to ensuring that “women, youth and children have access to the full range of health services. We must ensure zero tolerance of violence against or exploitation of women and girls. Women and girls must have equal access to financial services, and the right to own land and other assets” (para 69), it also call for “ending child, forced, marriage and the reference to ensuring meaningful participation and voice of women, LGBT groups, indigenous peoples (para 78). We regret that the report misses on the OWG language called for elimination of *all* forms of violence including *sexual* violence against all women and girls in public and private sphere. It also does not include people who are criminalized based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE). We fear that without a wider analysis of the social norms and cultural attitudes that influence gender inequality, it is difficult to see how these isolated initiatives will deliver the gender transformative agenda that is required for half of humanity to no longer be held back. We strongly call for the next negotiations to provide stronger targets, means of implementation and accountability mechanism that would require government to act.
- **Continued exclusion of other vulnerable and marginalized sectors**, In addressing gender inequalities, the agenda should ensure that it accommodates the voices of all women. In its current state, the document lists down the marginalized communities of women and girls but it's missing out communities of key affected women and girls, including women living with HIV, sex workers, women who use drugs, transgender women, who have been left behind. IF the post 2015 agenda aims for true inclusion, it needs to acknowledge all women. While the report generally focuses on women and girls, as well as children and adolescents as those who are 'left behind', there are specific population segments that are completely taken out of the picture, such as people living with HIV and key populations such as sex workers, drug users, transgender people, and men who have sex with men. Other vulnerable groups are also not given much attention, including LGBTs and young people from key populations who have always been invisible in these documents. While LGBT was mentioned once (Para 78), it is

more within the context of meaningful engagement of civil society. The principles of bodily integrity, dignity, and respect for diversity are non-negotiable. Furthermore, the Synthesis Report should specify targets to be set for disadvantaged groups and for data disaggregation across all goals and targets, in order to better address inequalities in all areas.

- **Does not address religious fundamentalism and religious extremism**, The document does not acknowledge the adverse impacts of religious fundamentalism and how this undermines the quest for peace, gender equality, and equitable development. This needs to be addressed, especially because it plays a big role in the continuing violence against women and girls, LGBT, people living with and affected by HIV, indigenous peoples, etc., and limiting and even denying women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Extreme interpretations of religion are used to control women's movements, their bodies, choices and freedoms.
- **No SRHR**, It is disappointing that the outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 process are not included in the Report. Member States have consistently affirmed their support for the ICPD Beyond 2014, as demonstrated by calling for the ICPD Programme of Action to live on in the post-2015 development framework at the *47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development* in April 2014 and the *United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the ICPD* in September 2014. While "sexual health" has already been added in the official version of the Report, it is still very concerning to see that there is no reference to "sexual rights". The Report refers to "preventable maternal, new-born and child death and malnutrition... realise women's sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" (para 70). This falls short of expectations of civil society and will not achieve the support and services for women, girls, men and boys, that we need for the sustainable development agenda to be successful. Sexuality is an integral aspect of being human, and sexual rights are fundamental human rights. It is imperative that these rights are recognised and ensured as an integral part of a just, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world in the intergovernmental process. We value the recognition that human development means respecting human rights and we stress the need to adopt this when promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. Further, the provision of high quality sexual and reproductive health services must be comprehensive to ensure that women, youth and children have access to the full range of health services and should not be limited to maternal health and family planning.

Also, the main document, particularly their main reference, The Global Youth Call, is generally weak in emphasizing quality comprehensive sexuality education. The Global Youth Call undermines the Colombo process, which is recognized as part of the official process. The Colombo Declaration contains some of the more progressive language, including young people living with HIV and, "other gender identities".

- **The report does not acknowledged the harmful impact of militarism**, We are disappointed to see no reference to the urgent need to reduce militarism, accountability of military-industrial complexes in the developed countries, reducing weapons globally and to tax the arm trade which can provide both revenue and promote peace. Military spending is only mentioned once in the document in the section on technology, and only to be compared to spending on research (paragraph 119). There is no recognition of the considerable impact of human rights violations by the state due to militarism, especially those who demand justice, equity and /or right of self-determination.
- **Absence in ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and aspect of decision making**. We have advocated for increasing women's decision making at all levels; at home, in the community, nationally, regionally and internationally. We recognize the statement to "accommodate the voices of women, youth and minorities, seek the prior and

informed consent of indigenous peoples...” in regards to ending poverty and fighting inequalities (paragraph 68). This was also echoed in the importance of an enabling environment under the rule of law for the “free, active and meaningful engagement of civil society and advocates reflecting the voices of women...” (paragraph 78). However, while the Report acknowledges the value of women’s voices, it falls significantly short of the demands of civil society and language already put forth in the OWG outcome document. Goals 5 and Goal 16 in the OWG document call for women’s effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels and aspects of decision making. These decisions that have a profound impact on their lives, their communities and their world. This has already been clearly advocated by the Open Working Group and its’ failure to be referenced here is concerning.

4. Environmental Justice

- **The UNSG Synthesis report does not respond to the imperatives of science.** While there is recognition of the need for global climate action, the Synthesis Report still refers to a global temperature rise of ‘below 2 degrees Celsius’, despite the scientific evidence that this is disastrous especially for the most vulnerable communities in developing countries. Sustainable development goals must be framed along a commitment to a comprehensive, ambitious and binding new climate agreement that will limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels if we want people and planet to survive the worst impacts of climate change.
- **The narrative on climate change fall short on the call for system change,** The SG synthesis report has rightly focused on climate change as a central issue. We welcome the specific reference to climate justice and the inclusion of common but differentiated responsibilities, and the need to take actions towards sustainable production and consumption (paragraph 75). Meaningfully addressing climate change entails going to the roots of the problem. We feel that the narrative on climate change needs to specifically articulate the need for system change, by committing to a radical and urgent transition from extractive, profit-based economies to people-centered models that are just, equitable, gender-sensitive and locally driven. Furthermore, this should compel the review and transformation of trade agreements that contribute to massive resource extraction from the developing countries, as well as the overhaul of the global financial and economic systems.
- Financing for adaptation and loss and damage must be the responsibility of developed countries, in recognition of their historical debt. The plight of developing countries (particularly LDCs and SIDs) should be a priority in the new agreement, while developed countries must recognise their obligation to support adaptation measures for developing countries through finance, technology transfer, capacity building and the removal of patent and intellectual property restrictions. Mitigation should not include commercialising the climate through mechanisms that have failed to reduce emissions including REDD, REDD+ and “climate smart” agriculture among others.
- **The report does not refer to traditional knowledge and practices of rural, indigenous women.** We note that the SG Synthesis Report makes several references to environmental stewardship, but it will only be meaningful when traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and rural women are retained and promoted, food sovereignty is institutionalised in laws and policies, and decision-making processes at all levels are led by those most affected by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, particularly women.

5. Accountability to Peoples

We reaffirm our position that an accountability framework in the Post-2015 agenda should aim to provide the enabling conditions required for development rights to be enjoyed, particularly by the most

marginalised. Those enabling environments have been identified in other processes, and therefore we welcome the report's call for full consistency with current political commitments and existing obligations under international law (paragraph 60). The Synthesis Report also recognizes the need to predicate private sector involvement on social and environmental accountability by citing the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, core labour standards of the ILO and the UN's environmental standards (paragraph 105). We appreciate this bold commitment which has exceeded anything outlined in the SDGs or ICESDF reports.

However, the Synthesis Report is inconsistent in its elaboration of an accountability framework. These concerns are elaborated in this following points:

- **No Clarity on the call for a new paradigm of accountability,** We are concerned about the report's recommendation for 'mutual accountability' that promotes 'public-private- people partnerships' (paragraph 81). This idea was also reinforced in the call for 'a new paradigm of accountability,' (paragraph 146) which ceases to recognise the historical responsibility of the North and shrouds the disproportion of power and conflicting goals among actors outlined in this section.
- **Voluntary Universal Periodic Review is Not Enough;** The Report acknowledges the need for stronger accountability and calls for a universal periodic review that is 'voluntary, state-led, participatory, evidence-based, and multi-tiered process to monitor progress' (paragraph 148). The voluntary nature and nationally focused lens of this review will replicate the existing failures of states to implement existing human rights obligations at both national levels and, critically, the obligations to regulate the private sector and the extra-territorial obligations of states.
- **No reference of a binding treaty to regulate TNC,** It is surprising that the report failed to refer to the resolution of the Human Rights Council to produce a binding treaty to regulate Trans-National Corporations (res no. A/HRC/26/L.22/Rev.1). As states have recognized the importance of new systems to hold the private sector to account, a new development agenda must include that obligation and institution in its work.

Specific Sectoral Demands

Women

- Asia Pacific Women Constituency welcomes that the SG synthesis report acknowledges that *"This is the century of women: We will not realise our full potential if half of humanity continues to be held back"* (para 51). The report also rightly recognises that *"While we have made important progress in recent years, addressing gender inequality and realizing women's rights remain a key challenge in all regions of the world"* (para 68).
- One of the six essential elements is "People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children". The report does not recognise gender equality as a central ambition and is a complete a step down from OWG's commitment to a standalone goal to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Women have been lumped together with children (para 69) and with vulnerable groups. It is not clear how this reframing around "essential elements" will affect the almost universal commitment to a standalone goal in this area.
- Asia-Pacific Women Constituency has advocated that gender equality and women's rights should be clearly articulated in a dedicated stand-alone goal, as well as being integrated

throughout the other goals. We fear the clustering will further weaken the language of women's rights.

- While we welcome the inclusion of rights to secure access to land for women and girls, the formulation of the language on land in the document is weaker than OWG Outcome Document, as it doesn't address nor reflect the negative impact of inheritance, succession, customary and/or family laws and marriage related-practices to women's right to land. Moreover, we have not confined our advocacy to demands that women have equal access to the increasingly small percentage of land available to poor people. Instead indicators that measure how much land is accessible and controlled by women and men over time, the ability to track land control and land-grabbing, and how much land is available to small land owners needs to be included.

People Living with and Affected by HIV

- The UNSG's Synthesis report has only one mention of HIV (Para 17), which relates only to access to ARVs and one mention of AIDS (para 70), which talks about an AIDS-free future. This cursory mention of HIV and AIDS is at its best, treatment-focused and negates the call to invest in the unmet MDGs, particularly in supporting prevention programmes and enabling environments. Thus, there is a need to address the unmet goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. As one of the targets identified in the Proposed Health Goal, HIV and AIDS should include the following indicators:
 - Sustainability of global supply of affordable and effective ARVs;
 - Reduction of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV) and key populations
 - Inclusion of and support for PLHIV and key populations at higher risk of HIV infection (because these communities also belong to the most marginalized and most discriminated against);
 - Support for research for HIV vaccines/cure, as well as better treatment and prevention commodities.

Possible additional reference to HIV/AIDS can be found in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS.

- On health, the report fails to address sexual rights and gender identity in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Member States should redress these omissions and ensure that all health-related targets and indicators are designed in ways that focus on reaching excluded groups, including women living with HIV, and protect their rights, including sexual rights. Progress should be tracked by measuring health services coverage and health outcomes among each population group most affected by a specific disease, including HIV, in each country, based on a WHO verified burden of disease and UNAIDS data on the risk of HIV infection by population group.
- On the Justice pillar, Member States should go further and work towards targets that include the removal of punitive laws and promote the adoption of protective laws for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, to ensure equity, equality and eliminate discrimination.
- Paragraph 126 (e) talks about applications of TRIPS flexibilities. This needs to specifically address the application of flexibilities on life-saving medicines like production of affordable and effective generic ARVs. Current moves to curtail the production of generic ARVs run counter to the goals of sustainable development.

Urban Poor

- Poverty must not be addressed by measuring and eliminating “extreme poverty” alone as it is multi-dimensional and involves different factors. In addressing urban poverty, we must be spatially aware on the influence of labor and commodity. Urban poverty must not only include informal settlers. Urban poor population also includes the homeless, the unemployed, the underemployed and those working in the informal sector (e.g. drivers, ambulant vendors, contractual service workers, laborers, etc). The face of urban poverty is not only represented by the informal settlers.
- Urban poverty is also characterized by low wages, “flexibilization” of labor, unemployment; the cost of housing, even social housing is not affordable due to low wages or lack of employment and its privatized characteristics. Social services are lacking and are not universal. Measures such as the government centerpiece project “Conditional Cash Transfer” have only targeted populations for their beneficiaries.

Indigenous Peoples

- We fully acknowledge the inclusion of the need for the informed and prior consent of indigenous peoples [para 68] in the development agenda. We believe this should be formulated as Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and key indicators on this shall be included in the final Post 2015 along with the recognition of the land tenure of indigenous peoples as a clear target and indicator under goals 1 and 2.
- We welcome the call for free, active and meaningful participation of civil society, including Indigenous Peoples, and their access to fair justice systems and accountable governance institutions. We further welcome the recognition that Indigenous Peoples are part of the Shared Ambition for a Shared Future and that we will not be left behind [para 51].
- We strongly recommend recognizing and facilitating the indigenous peoples’ rights to engage in their traditional occupations and livelihood strategies. In this regard we call for the full and effective application of ILO standards, particularly Conventions Nos. 169 and 111 is key in this regard. Convention No. 111 protects shifting cultivators against discrimination in employment, including the right to freely choose one’s occupation. It is strongly interlinked with Convention No. 169, which recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to maintain their distinct cultural identity.

Science and Technology

- We uphold to instill a culture to make sustainable solutions backed up by scientific and critical analysis. For young generation, it is of great importance to recognize the need for high quality education and lifelong learning. Not only to equip them with the skills but would also inculcate in them the need to challenge the existing consumerist development trajectories and lifestyles. We are well aware that educational system in many developing countries is being shifted towards liberalized global policies wherein science and technology education program is systematically shifted to vocational careers that are geared towards labour for export than addressing the development requirements of their respective countries.
- Science and technology research, especially of developing countries should be geared towards enhancing areas in dire need of development such as climate-sensitive food production, education, nutrition and even disaster risk reduction to help reduce poverty and contribute to development. Innovation is a tool, not an end in itself. Innovation should be incorporated to bridge both horizontal and vertical inequalities from income inequalities; access to basic resources such as education, water and sanitation, energy; and differences between

advantaged and disadvantaged groups, and different identity categories. Likewise, adequate budget for scientific research and development is important if countries will be spurred to attain national progress and development. Raising the budget for science and technology to at least 2% of national budgets or to even half the budget being given to the Department of Defense (DOD) would help put these countries on the track.

- Online, global platform is welcome but requires local/domestic/national direction. The mechanisms at national levels should be developed to mobilize the utilization of this platform especially for the poor and vulnerable communities.
- We welcome the call for acquiring 'data literacy' and the need to strengthen national and international statistical capacities: especially the call for "building of a global consensus, applicable principles and standards for data" which is one of the most urgent tasks if the so-called data revolution has to be harnessed for public good. It is also noteworthy that the report has dedicated setting up of a 'comprehensive programme of action on data' under the UN Statistical Commission along with a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the World Forum on Sustainable Development Data. These initiatives directed at harnessing big data for the public good can help redefine the area of big data and data revolution where currently, the main paradigm is that although the sources of data collection are largely public, it is mostly used as a highly valued commercial resource in private hands.
- Science-policy-field action interface needs to be incorporated at the implementation of enabling programs and peer review exercise. Even though experience with scientific information exists in various related fora (CBD, CC) its importance is not highlighted yet.
- The proposed global partnership on research, development, demonstration and diffusion (RDD&D) of new technologies should be based on multi-stakeholder, solution-driven governance of technology and innovation. It should include assessment and monitoring of how new technologies actually affect peoples' lives and the environment. The world needs a multilateral mechanism to help in particular developing countries to identify unsustainable technologies and to protect their citizens from unwanted impacts and adverse consequences of technologies. When negative effects of a technology have become too important to ignore, as with asbestos, nuclear pollution or fracking; it is often too late to undo the harm done, or to get the polluter to pay for the damage done. Technology assessment is indispensable in scaling up technology cooperation and sharing, strengthening knowledge and innovation capacities, and in attaining substantial progress in technology development, transfer and dissemination of technologies in developing countries in the context of sustainable development.
- ICTs should consciously be integrated in all development efforts, with due attention to core principles of openness, decentralization, horizontalisation, transparency and participation. We hence suggest adding language like that proposed below, to the report.

"ICTs are today becoming universal enablers and transforming social systems and structures in all areas. For this society-wide transformation, and the advent of what has been called as the information society, to be such that it is just, equitable and provides dignity and social justice to all, and is sustainable, a few conditions must be met. ICTs should be made available as a universal service, basic ICT literacy as well as higher capabilities should be ensured for all, and the architecture of ICTs should be open and equitable to provide a level playing field for all, instead of becoming a means and platform for even greater inequality, exploitation and injustice."

- It is also suggested that within the new initiative in the form of a global platform proposed under

Para125, an additional objective of this platform be mentioned as *“(d) explore, map and suggest means for employing ICTs for sustainable development, both at a macro and community level”*.

- We would like the Secretary-General to announce a new initiative to develop such non GDP based measurements of progress, employing the big data possibilities that are generally outlined in the path breaking report A World that Counts: Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development.
- We would like the report to go beyond discussing big data as a kind of neutral resource, to mention the issue of both its possible misappropriation, mostly from a public resource to private, as well as misuse, for instance, for mass surveillance and other forms of social control. It must be recognized that the main source of big data today is the digital footprint of private and social activities, that take place in privately owned digital spaces. Such private ownership, or misappropriation, of most digital spaces frames the possibilities of use, of a big part of data for public purposes (or not). It is therefore required to both: (1) specifically promote public and community or peer-to-peer platforms for gathering and employing big data (a need partly expressed in the call to set up 'a web of data innovation networks') and (2) develop standards, guidelines and policies about data collection, ownership and use (which is indeed called for, by the report).
- We suggest the addition of a para in the report, to the following effect.

“In a digitally enabled society, big data is a major opportunity if it is appropriately employed for public good. However, such a use cannot be taken for granted, and needs to be properly directed through appropriate public actions, including necessary policies and programs. Specifically, public data systems should be further strengthened, community partnerships be developed for public interest data systems; guidelines and policies be developed regarding data collection, use and ownership; and, it must be ensured that data pertaining to public issues and that which is collected from the public is available for public uses, and not proprietized. Such data should also be protected against misuse by public authorities and should be subject to appropriate oversight mechanisms as has been called for by the recent relevant resolutions on privacy of the Human rights Council. ”