

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair for this opportunity. I represent Asia Pacific research network and the Asia Pacific regional CSO engagement mechanism.

Indeed, Asia Pacific has experienced tremendous levels of growth. However, this growth, borne out of the dominant market-driven development model has not benefitted those who need it most, as evidenced by the shocking levels of inequalities and severe environmental destruction.

It is time to do away with this model that privilege a few wealthy over the majority of people and threatens to destroy the planet that we live in.

Asia Pacific CSOs collectively created a new development model that provides a new vision for an equitable, sustainable and just development. This model, called Development Justice requires 5 foundational shifts.

We call for redistributive justice. We cannot just continue to grow as the planet has finite resources. To prevent ecological catastrophe and to address inequalities within and between countries- wealth, power, and opportunities should be redistributed to all human beings equitably by dismantling the existing systems, including unequal trade agreements that channel resources and wealth from developing countries to wealthy countries, from people to corporations and elites.

We need **economic justice** to make sure that economies work for the people and not the other way around. Production should not be based on exploitation of both people and natural resources. This brings me to the next point, that we need,

Environmental Justice. Our planet is rapidly approaching towards a global climate disaster. In addressing the problem of environmental sustainability, we should not be forgetting about the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, especially on the responsibilities of countries that caused this in the first place.

Eliminating patriarchal systems and fundamentalisms to address gender-based violence and discrimination, challenging existing social structures, and affirmation of sexual and reproductive health and rights, requires much work, along with addressing other social justice issues. For this, we need **Gender and Social Justice.**

Participatory democracy is being undermined by the growing trend of restricting space for civil society, while on the other hand, corporation's influence over how policy is developed and implemented are being increased, without proper mechanisms in place to ensure their accountability. We need a genuine review and follow up mechanism that will ensure **accountabilities to the peoples.**

Development Justice can only be achieved through collective action, some of which are already happening: from the agro-ecological practices of farmers, fair trade movements, to indigenous peoples blocking destructive investments from their ancestral land, and garment workers demanding decent work and living wages. Clearly, people on the ground have started to build, and travel on the road to development justice. Are you willing to take this road with us?