



Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM)
Written Comments to the SDG Summit Political Declaration “Zero Draft”
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Contact Persons: April Porteria, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (april@apwld.org); Ali Raza Jillani, Karachi Research Chair (ali.jillani88@gmail.com)

Overall Comments

- The draft is consensus-oriented, vague and business-as-usual, lacking concrete, bold and critical measures despite the multidimensional crises we face today.
- Action oriented, comprehensive and responsive policy action merits much more than pegging on humanity’s resilience to withstand disasters; the Declaration should in fact focus on multilateral systems’ ability to prevent such crises as well as ensure their effective redress through political will and leadership necessary.
- Means of Implementation need to be operationalized through accountable policy action from the UN ensuring that commitments around financial, technical and technological support are mobilized and failure to do so is held accountable for.
- The universality of the Agenda 2030 can be reaffirmed when rights and responsibilities are universalized in letter and spirit; ensuring rule of the law above everything specially the corporate elephant in the room that needs to be recognized and held to account for the illicit financial flows (tax evasions, trade mispricing, asset stealth, profit shifting), environmental degradation (historical taxation on emissions, deliberate denial of science - esp. extractive and mining industries), the instrumentalization of Investor State Dispute Settlement and other neoliberal tactics damaging the developing countries (robbing billions of dollars and shrinking their state policy space to protect citizen rights), through the abuse of weak legal infrastructure across the global south.
- Multilateral processes need to be democratized by denying preferential status to the profit-driven corporate sector, mainly responsible for the crises confronting humanity, across negotiation tables and ensuring meaningful civil society inclusion.
- We suggest stronger language on primacy of human dignity and rights, women’s human rights, right to development, and prioritization of countries and communities in natural or man-made disasters, conflicts, occupied territories, underdeveloped and indigenous communities, to realize the ambition of leaving no one behind slogan.
- Also, stronger emphasis on concrete policy action on addressing systemic barriers including Unjust Trade and Investment Agreements, Corporate Capture, Land and Resource Grabbing, Climate Change, Patriarchy and Fundamentalisms, Militarism and Conflict, and Authoritarian Governance, among other emerging dynamics like technological takeover etc.
- We recommend the need to include strong language on ensuring policy coherence across UN as well as its affiliate and cooperative arrangement based partners specially WTO and IFIs such

as the IMF and World Bank and Co. to ensure avoiding the cliché of one step forward, two steps back in the decade of action and delivery for Sustainable Development.

- We recommend inclusion of Development Justice as a crosscutting emphasis across development processes to ensure Economic Justice, Redistributive Justice, Social and Gender Justice, Environmental Justice and Accountability to Peoples to reverse the trends on regressions across the Agenda 2030.

Specific / language based comments

Proposed Additions in Blue

Proposed Deletions in Red

Para 2: Line 4: ...multiple **systemic** crises

Para 4: Line 4: **We remain hopeful, given that our world, its people, and the United Nations have a history of resilience and overcoming challenges.**

Para 4: Line 4: **by weakened international solidarity in the absence of accountability mechanisms on MOI commitments, among others. We reaffirm that people and the planet have borne the brunt of the profit oriented approach, and it is a question of credibility for the United Nations to correct the course for meaningful application of its own charter before it is too late.**

Para 5: Line 2: ...shared responsibility, **historical accountability**, and **genuine robust** cooperation at all levels.

Para 5: Line 3: ...a **systemic and structural** shift towards...

Para 6: Line 2: ...human rights treaties **in letter and spirit, through integrated mechanisms proactively protecting normative and development considerations from derogatory trade regimes, manipulative rules, and mechanisms disadvantageous to the countries left behind. We also emphasize the need for affiliate and cooperative arrangement entities with the UN like WTO and IFIs & Co. to reflect the same spirit in their operations.**

Para 9: Line 2: ...from **ongoing internal and external** conflicts...

Para 9: Line 2: ...inflation, **debt burden**, and the cost...

Para 11: Line 4: ...women and girls **including universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights...**

Para 13: Line 2: ...quality healthcare **including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights...**

Para 13: Line 3: infrastructure for all, and a healthy environment for the young and future generations.

Para 16: Line 1: UN75 Declaration, UDHR, CEDAW, BPfA, CRC, ICESCR, ICCPR,...

Para 18: Line 2: ...stakeholders and rights holders, including civil society, trade unions, private sector, academia, women, youth, and indigenous people and people with disabilities...

Para 20: Line 4: ...forced eviction and displacement...

Para 21: Line 3: ...sufficient and immediate humanitarian...

Para 21: Line 4: ...and assistance, including education,...

Para 26: Line 4: ...financial and tax architecture...

Para 34: Line 4: ...achieve the SDGs with human rights and gender equality crosscutting the means of implementation.

Para 35: Line 5: ...HIV AIDS, LGBTIQ+ people,...

Para 36-b: Line 2: ...programs and initiatives, Comprehensive Sexuality education, Human Rights education, including sexual and reproductive rights, programs on indigenous knowledge and practices, disability inclusive education,...

Para 36-c: Line 2: ...the benefits and address the threats of digitalization.

Para 36-c: Line 6: ...technological benefits and innovations

Para 36-d: Line 2: ...consumption practices, mainstream indigenous and local food culture,

Para 36-d: Line 3: ...address water insecurity,...

Para 36-e: Line 3: ...assist developing countries ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the communities in the process of implementation. We commit to implement Just Transition industrial policies and investment plans based on social dialogue and the protection of labor rights to promote the creation of decent and climate-friendly jobs in renewable energy sectors and their related supply chains.

Para 36-j: Line 7: ...scientific evidence, including indigenous knowledge and evidence in policy making.

Para 36-l: Line 2: ...timely, disaggregated, and...

Para 36-l: Line 4: ...disability, ethnicity, geography,...

Para 36-m: Line 5: sustainable growth development.

Para 36-p: Line 2: ...strengthened urgent multilateral coordination...