

Short Combined CSO Statement

120 civil society representatives from across Asia and the Pacific urge member states to consider the following:

Universal access to comprehensive, integrated, quality sexual and reproductive health services, information and care is a human right. Services should be delivered in a non-discriminatory manner and include access to a full range of safe, affordable, effective and voluntary forms of modern contraception; adequate counselling, information and education; adolescent and youth friendly services; comprehensive maternity care including pre and post natal care and safe delivery services; safe comprehensive abortion care; prevention and treatment of STIs, HIV and reproductive cancers; and prevention of sexual and gender based violence.

We reaffirm the need to prevent vulnerability, discrimination, violence and marginalisation based on gender, age, race, caste, class, migrant status, marital status, indigenous status, livelihoods, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation and gender identity. This must be achieved through the removal of all discriminatory laws and policies and by addressing social and economic barriers.

Violence against women throughout the life cycle derives from patriarchy. In particular, this includes harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices and all acts of extremism that perpetuate the lower status accorded to women in the family, workplace, community and society.

Gender equality can never be fully achieved without an inter-sectional approach to reproductive and sexual rights which include the right to sexual orientation and gender identity. Sexual and reproductive rights are indivisible, inalienable, inter-related human rights which are fundamental to achieving gender equality and human development.

We strongly endorse the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity, without coercion, discrimination or violence to guarantee the right to information and the means

necessary for people's sexual and reproductive health. We recall Human Rights Council resolution 17/19 on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.

We commend the member states for addressing the concerns on migration, both internal and international. However, there is a need to underscore the realities behind why people migrate beyond improving their livelihood, which includes conflict, disasters as well as climate change.

We urge member states to put in place rights-based and gender-responsive pre-departure, post-arrival and reintegration programmes. We request the member states to remove discriminatory laws and policies that impinge on the human rights of migrant workers, including mandatory screenings for HIV/STIs and pregnancy, and the prohibition to marry and form a family, among others.

We strongly recommend member states to ensure consistent referencing to both adolescents and youth across all areas of population, development and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We recommend that comprehensive sexuality education with an emphasis on human rights and a holistic approach should be retained in both formal and non-formal settings. We urge member states to include CSE in the school curricula. It should be delivered in a child friendly, non-discriminatory and non-judgemental environment. We urge member states to acknowledge that respecting and enabling the political participation of adolescents and youth is critical.

We urge member states to address ageing as a priority issue which should be recognized in national, regional laws, policies and plans of action. We recommend that age-friendly environments to support active participation of older persons in community and development activities should be created and promoted.

We commend the recognition of unsafe abortion as a public health and human rights challenge and strongly urge the decriminalization of abortion and removal of barriers that prevent access to safe abortion services across the region.

We urge member states to ensure a fully transparent and inclusive monitoring process for implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda that makes information freely available to all stakeholders; include process indicators to improve qualitative evaluations; in particular from the most socially marginalized and vulnerable population, on how development programmes impact their lives.

We commend the call for strengthening accountability mechanism by member states and to reaffirm their commitment towards the full implementation of all international human rights treaties that provide the international legal framework for promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights.

We call on, member states, multilateral organisations and donors to invest in the full implementation of the PoA and subsequent ICPD commitments to address the unfinished agenda.

Poverty eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and is a matter of basic justice and human rights. We recommend that population policies based on incentives or disincentives, should be replaced with rights based policies.

Civil society organisations must continue to be integral to monitoring and review processes on policies, programmes and the implementation of action.

Thank you!