

MGS Statement at Fifth Asia Pacific Forum of High Authorities and Ministers of Environment

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Agenda Item 3a

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1. We, more than eighty community-based and grassroots organizations (CSOs) held our Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum yesterday. We think that we are in the middle of nowhere at the midpoint of agenda 2030 and peoples and major groups demand development justice and transformative environmental multilateralism. we strongly feel that amidst of the meta crisis of ambition, legitimacy and sustainability, we are at the cusp of a time where incrementalism is no longer sufficient, and where multilateral actions can either break or make a sustainable and inclusive future for the region as well as all for entire humanity.

Key messages and recommendations for the Fifth AP Forum and UNEA 6

1. Peoples and communities' rights and sustainability should be at the core and center of multilateral and national actions. Recognition of indigenous and traditional knowledge and peoples innovations and the role of women in providing solutions to sustainable management of energy, food, water, health and nutrition and their participation should be promoted. It's also good to recognize the efforts and contribution of all major groups and CSOs who have worked hand in hand with the government at all times including during the pandemic.
2. Ensure and enable peoples and CSOs meaningful participation in environmental governance at the national, regional and global levels and address the barriers to effective participation. Ensure and promote transparency and access to information as a fundamental prerequisite to people's meaningful participation.
3. Assert and protect public control over natural resources. Strong policies and regulatory standards are required to address corporate driven interests and techno fixes that cause and further aggravate environmental problems and undermine people's rights and responses.
4. It is proven that food production, agro ecology as a practice, a science and a social movement is known to improve soils, protect health and the environment, improve livelihoods and increase household income and

resilience. Agro ecology also harnesses traditional and indigenous knowledge systems supported by people's science and builds social solidarity.

5. Planetary scale renewable energy will further increase extraction many times and therefore, there is an urgent need for reduction in energy consumption in northern countries and affluent communities in the global south. Mega scale renewable energy projects restrict energy democracy, localization and people's participation. Just transition plans must be developed in social dialogue with workers and their trade unions to ensure that fundamental labour rights, social protection, job security, and training opportunities for workers affected by global warming and climate change policies are guaranteed
6. Nature-based solutions as a concept that is widely misused to justify false solutions such as GMOs and geoengineering that aim to manipulate biological and climate systems to technologically address the biodiversity, environment and climate crises that we humanity is currently facing. We strongly condemn and oppose these dangerous distractions, and call on the UN and member-states to support, enable and promote genuine solutions
7. Science-Policy Interface processes and mechanisms must be genuinely inclusive, enable the participation of communities and civil society and treat their insights and lived experiences as on par with experts' knowledge in informing policies, decisions and collective actions. The member states should commit to a pollution free future.
8. Ensure participation of the CSOs, trade unions, grassroots movements and other stakeholders in assessing new and emerging technologies as a key component of environmental governance. Due importance should be given in capturing the interpretation of evidences by different actors and enabling broad participation in societal deliberation on technologies.
9. Social enterprises allow poor and marginalized communities to become key economic players based on principles of care, cooperation, solidarity, fair trade, and participation. These should be promoted as they have strong human dimension and help to diminish poverty and inequality.
10. Member states and the private sector should commit no harm and protection to environmental and human rights defenders.