

## **MGS Statement**

### **Agenda item 7: Multistakeholder's dialogue: Multilateral Environmental Cooperation to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (challenges and opportunities)**

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1. Thank you, Chair. I am from the International Trade Union Confederation - Asia Pacific, also representing workers and trade unions in the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism. I will be delivering the following key messages on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders.
2. At the midpoint of the Agenda 2030, it is clear that SDGs remain a promise belied. We are concerned that despite some efforts, we are still shackled by multiple structural or systemic barriers and a fractured multilateralism. Therefore, we urge the governments in the region (and beyond) to focus on the drivers of poverty, inequality, patriarchy and marginalization, besides the triple planetary crises, in order to resolve them through ambitious political solutions and a strengthened cooperative multilateralism committed to transformational changes.
3. Prosperity in the global north remains partly financed by the exploitation of natural and human resources in the global south. There is a need to devise an adequate accounting and governance system to remedy this situation and to ensure that the benefits and impacts are shared equitably across a planet characterised by ever shrinking spaces.
4. Member states must advance good governance with increased accountability and transparency and remove anti-people policies to protect natural resources. The need to address environmental wellbeing hand in hand with human development cannot be a step that comes after certain human development indicators are achieved. This also cannot be done without pro-poor and just policies that address inequality and discrimination.
5. Member states should put up strong national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework. They must ensure that the pledged financial support to developing countries and biodiversity hotspots start flowing by 2024.
6. Solutions cannot be only technological fixes. Localised implementation is also needed with adequate resources, better harmonisation of needs and definitions, life cycle management, strong law enforcement, and increased research capacity. It is necessary to support participatory and community action research for evidence-based solutions. We would like to reiterate the importance of peoples' meaningful participation in environmental governance.
7. Just transition has been mentioned in the discussion as well as in the draft ministerial declaration. However, for us, trade unions, where the concept of just transition originated, such references to just transition have been silent on the key principles that ensure that no

one, no worker, is left behind in the process. A labour rights approach is a crucial ingredient of all policies and projects branded as “just transition”. Without respect for fundamental labour rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, no policy or project deserves the label “just transition”.