

ARROW AND PARTNER JOINT STATEMENT AT COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT, FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION 2022  
25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April

*Population and Sustainable Development, in particular Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth*

Oral Statement by the Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Respected Chair and distinguished delegates

The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), along with our 28 partners and allies, making this joint statement, welcome the theme for the 55th session of the CPD.

We reiterate that sustained and inclusive economic growth is hinged on the respect for the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, the outcome documents of its reviews, and the General Assembly resolution 70/1. In addition, sustained, inclusive economic growth should also recognize the importance of supportive International Labour Organization standards.

Countries in the Asia and the Pacific region continue to face the impact of COVID -19 crises and are in different epidemiological status. The increase in demands for unpaid care work has also further widened gender gaps in labour force participation, and risk of job replacements for women and marginalised groups, due to sudden transition to 4IR technologies.

Based on data available from the region, the percentage of women who experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the last 12 months in 2021, went as high as 47.6 per cent. Disruptions in health services, during the Covid-19 context, are projected to contribute to additional 11,000 maternal deaths in South Asia. Further to this about 4.5 million girls are likely to never return to school, and are at particular risk due to deteriorating access to sexual and reproductive health services including comprehensive sexuality education.(UNICEF 2022)

All these challenges if not addressed will impede inclusive economic growth in the region.

We call upon Member States to ensure the following:

- Uphold gender equality, human rights, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination in population and sustainable development policies, and inclusive economic growth policies.
- Push for gender parity to kickstart recovery and advance economic sustainable growth in the region. (The Power of Parity, 2021).
- Harness Demographic dividends through restructuring, and including fair compensation to care work and reduction and compensation of the double burden of work women face.
- Institute and improve social protection policies, including universal health coverage. Ensure comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services is part

of country universal health coverage plans and deliver quality health care to vulnerable and marginalized populations, women and young people.

- Finally, Disaggregated data is crucial on economic social and environmental dimensions including care work and informal labour, and this needs to be collected

Building back better require actions from Member States RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW!

Joint statement is supported by

Name of the organisation and country
Wreetu Health and Well-being Foundation, Bangladesh
Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre - Pakistan
The Enlight Lab (Pakistan)
Centre for Social Policy Development (Pakistan)
Shelter Participatory Org (SPO) - Pakistan
Rural Development Foundation (RDF)
Youth Advocacy Network (YAN)
Green Circle Organization ( Pakistan )
LEDARS (Bangladesh)
Gravity Development Org (Pakistan)
Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center and Non Registered National Networks Networks, Thailand
Y-PEER Mongolia NGO
Y-PEER Nepal NGO
Y-PEER Kiribati NGO
Y-PEER Afghanistan NGO
Me for Myself (M4M)
Working Group on Disabilities and 2030 Agenda(Disabilities2030)
Women's Health Foundation/Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan-NGO
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YIFoS Indonesia (Youth Interfaith Forum on Sexuality)