

## "SDGs in focus: SDGs 12, 13, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs"

Statement for Session 2 July 7, 2021

I am Lorelei Covero and in behalf of my organisation IBON International Foundation and APRCEM, I thank the Chair, for the opportunity to raise some salient points:

In 2020 the Asia Pacific region experienced converging disasters due to climate and covid affecting more than 96 million people<sup>1</sup>. The climate crisis and the COVID19 pandemic is a deadly combination. With the long-term effects of the pandemic and the frequency of disaster events expected to escalate we call for sincere efforts to address climate change and commit to stronger NDCs. We also call for an end to fossil fuel subsidies. But even in recovery programmes, we see that only 15% goes to green and clean energy. This trend must be reversed, this is fundamental to the climate agenda.

Indeed, we will not meet the SDGs nor the Paris Agreement, if we do not have a sustainable production-consumption chain-- which is equitable, just, rights-based and people-centered. We emphasize that technology and support must be provided to producer countries, especially from the global South, to avoid job-loss, and advance the transition to sustainable modes of production.

We recommend supporting local economies and regional circulating ecological spheres -- which are smaller, lighter economies with social, environmental and resilience benefits closer to the people, instead of outsourcing production and waste to countries with no social or labour safety nets and adequate environmental safeguards.

We also urgently need to tackle plastic pollution and marine debris. We support a binding global agreement, negotiated under a UNEA mandate. We strongly need to address overconsumption of resources (including energy) and developing countries should take responsibility and take into account their per capita resource consumption which is 10 times as compared to that of other countries.

The UN Secretary General called for a common agenda, with a new social contract and global deal, this should be one that; is not *business as usual*, one which supports strong multilateralism and meaningful partnerships and one where the wellbeing of the PLANET and the most vulnerable people are at the heart of local, national and global agreements - that go beyond the SDGs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/75538>

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