<u>**Renewed Commitment for the Realisation of Development Outcomes: CPDE Asia Key Asks**</u>
Statement of Principles for HLM3

The Asia-Pacific region is at a critical juncture as it faces the global pandemic, brewing economic crisis, intensified conflict and worsening climate emergency, which further exacerbates inequalities and leaves the marginalised populations behind. In this light, development actors have a crucial role in mitigating the impacts of these crises on the people, upholding commitments and achieving development goals.

CPDE asserts that the EDC Principles, aligned with human and women's rights frameworks, must be refocused, revitalised and accelerated for a better global, regional, national and local response to the urgency of the moment and in order to achieve the SDGs and the Agenda 2030.

We call on all development actors to:

Ensure Democratic Ownership that
- Is aligned with the Human Rights Based Approach and a Feminist Based Approach
- Is driven by democratically formulated national and regional priorities and realities on the ground
- Is aligned to and uses country systems in financing, including in crisis response and COVID-19 recovery
- Guarantees predictable concessional funding that is timely and predictable
- Ensures inclusive and proportionate participation of all genders

Build Inclusive Partnerships that
- Uphold and promote an effective enabling environment rooted in human rights, including women's rights, workers' rights and the rights of environmental activists and human rights defenders
- Strengthen civil society participation in development discourse, COVID-19 recovery, SDG implementation, and beyond
- Ensure ability of diverse CSOs to operate freely from any harm and/or interference

Guarantee Transparency and Accountability by
- Securing oversight and redress mechanisms at all levels
- Offering access to prompt, reliable, and comprehensive information on ODA allocations, especially in times of crisis to all CSOs
- Enhancing the implementation of the GPEDC monitoring framework to secure timely, comprehensive reporting on implementation of EDC principles

Focus on Results that
- Target the most marginalised communities and those left behind, especially women and children, rural populations and Indigenous Peoples, migrants, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons in the informal sector, unpaid care work and the transformative economy
- Contribute in addressing inequalities and all forms of discrimination
- Adhere to transparent, measurable, and time-bound frameworks for assessing progress and results

> ***Truly aspire to Leave No-One Behind by***
> - Fulfilling and surpassing long standing ODA commitments on quantity and quality
> - Upholding solidarity in the form of grants over loans
> - Institutionalising the participation or inclusion of CSOs at the national level through dedicated mechanisms or frameworks
> - Providing access to essential services for the vulnerable and marginalised
> - Ensuring human rights and women's rights at the core of recovery efforts
> - Supporting and defending any action against armed conflicts and in favour of peace

ASIA KEY ASKS

Implementation of Effective Development Cooperation Commitments. While the Asia-Pacific region is increasingly seen as an arena for economic growth and geo-political tensions, development actors must put the effectiveness agenda front and center to sufficiently address the multidimensional crises faced by the region. Development finance must be channeled towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leaving no one behind.

- In addition to the 0.7% GNI commitment, uphold the 0.2% GNI commitment to least developed countries in the region and beyond
- Provide assistance and debt relief to countries experiencing economic crisis and debt distress
- Support countries in establishing gender-responsive public financing systems
- Abandon conditionalities that forwards donor and private sector interests, at the expense of people's rights and interests
- Ensure sufficient financing for COVID-19 response, without diminishing aid towards other development challenges and attainment of SDGs
- Pursue South-South cooperation (SSC) and triangular cooperation (TrC) initiatives that are based on the principles of democratic ownership, solidarity and people's participation

A CSO Enabling Environment. As 22 out of 26 countries in the region experience restrictions on their civic freedoms and attacks on civil society continue, development actors must work together to foster an enabling environment for CSOs. Furthermore, support must be given to local CSOs to implement their own development projects that are effective and rooted in their realities.

- Ensure the commitment to and implementation of the *DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society*
- CSOs in conflict-affected states like Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Palestine, which continue to address the needs of the marginalised, must be assured of sufficient resources and provided with security while doing development work
- Solidarity and support must be extended to CSOs in countries where their freedoms and rights are threatened
- Retract laws and policies that limit CSOs' capacity to enact their role as development actors, including gaining access to aid and funding
- Facilitate participation of civil society organisations, community-based organisations and people's organisations in participating in SDG-related processes, such as the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)
- Support CSOs in upholding their Action Agenda and commitment to the *Istanbul Principles*

Private Sector Accountability. Despite the perceived role of private financing in addressing the gap in development finance, private sector entities' role in development cooperation must be aligned with the Kampala Principles, and governments must continue to exercise their duty in providing services and social protection for the people.

- Ensure that the common pitfalls of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), such as the tendency of the public sector to shoulder most of the risks, the lack of positive development outcomes, absence of transparency and accountability, are addressed even before utilising this scheme
- Implement safeguards and accountability mechanisms for private sector-led projects, including those under International Finance Institutions (IFIs), to ensure that these uphold people's rights and protect the environment
- Ensure that multinational and transnational corporations that conduct their business in the region uphold international labour standards, including worker's right to unionise, and exhibit responsible business conduct in all its activities
- Ensure that development processes are genuinely multi-stakeholder in nature and free from corporate capture

Coherent and Inclusive Responses to Crises of Conflict, Occupations, and Wars. In conflict-affected states in the region, especially Afghanistan, Palestine and Myanmar, address the root causes of conflict and provide for the immediate needs of affected communities. Donors' security strategies geared towards the Asia-Pacific region must not be pursued at the expense of people's peace and security.

- Enhance capacities of CSOs in addressing immediate needs and long-term impacts of conflict
- Promote the localization of aid to allow for solutions that are based on the communities' needs and realities
- Urgently implement the DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in conflict-affected, fragile states
- Incorporate climate change-related actions in triple nexus programs to avoid the climate-fragility trap
- Ensure that ODA, as well as public and domestic resources, are prioritized over private sector financing in fragile states

Effectiveness of Climate Finance. As the region remains at the frontlines of the climate emergency, commitments to provide sufficient finance for adaptation and mitigation measures and loss and damage must be upheld.

- Provide urgent and sufficient assistance to communities affected by extreme climatic events
- Support decarbonisation and energy transition efforts that secure universal energy access, and promotes democratically-owned, climate-resilient energy systems
- Abandon market-based solutions that lack sufficient evidence and can contribute more negative impacts to the environment
- Realise climate justice by upholding loss and damage commitments and providing the necessary support in the form of sufficient finance, technology transfer and capacity development to developing countries in the region

FOSTERING TRUST IN THE REGION

Trust-building requires investment – resources, time and constant communication. Fostering inclusive partnerships, maintaining engagements with various development actors and remaining accountable to one another are required to ensure that trust is built, maintained and preserved. Various development actors from the government, multilateral institutions and civil society share their perspectives on how to build and foster trust in the region:

For the UNESCAP, established platforms and networks of civil society organizations collectively influence multi-stakeholder mechanisms and processes, bringing together various perspectives and expertise to address long-standing development issues. Having such mechanisms in place, CSOs should be able to contribute to sub-regional and regional initiatives on research, policy and decision-making. At the country-level, voluntary national reviews should ideally provide a space for CSOs to contribute to the attainment of SDGs in their respective countries.

However, UNESCAP recognizes that these mechanisms lack inclusivity, and that trust between civil society and other development actors is eroding. Thus, the institution aims to mainstream and harmonize engagement, enhance understanding of the stakeholder context and further build capacity of CSOs and other stakeholders to enable substantial participation in these processes. UNESCAP also aims to ensure that stakeholders are empowered, not just informed and consulted, in regional, sub-regional, national and local development processes.

For Thailand's Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, engaging CSOs has contributed to the department's quick response to health issues, especially during lockdowns, and climate change impacts. The department also advocates for participatory decision-making, where women and other marginalized sectors are at the center, and for increased support and capacity strengthening of CSOs to further contribute to national development outcomes.

In contexts of conflict, building trust is all the more important as the absence of it costs human lives and suffering. Humanitarian actors remind the crucial role trust plays in addressing the impacts of conflict in fragile contexts as well as its root causes.

Civil society organizations assert the need for development actors to remain transparent and accountable to their partners and the people they serve. Having access to data and information from donor countries, governments and institutions is essential for CSOs. CSOs remind governments to uphold the DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society and to urgently implement the DAC Nexus Recommendation. Establishing other mechanisms for multi-stakeholder dialogue and process can further enable trust among development actors.

The erosion of trust is a manifestation of the systematic issues surrounding development cooperation, which contributes to the exacerbation of inequalities, increasing poverty, worsening of conflict and further environmental degradation. With this, building trust in partnerships entails the shifting of political will as development actors recognize the urgency to adhere to development effectiveness principles, which means respecting people's democratic right over their own development, pursuing inclusive partnerships, focusing on results, and ensuring transparency and accountability.

COUNTRY ASKS ON TRUST-BUILDING

Philippines. In order to build trust, Philippine CSOs call on their government to ensure the protection of broad civic space and to enhance capacities of civic actors.

- Recognize the work of CSOs grounded on the realities and experiences of the marginalized, and their contributions in cultivating space for development, trust and peacebuilding
- Ensure that CSOs working at the local level can influence the drafting and implementation of local policies and legislations, as they guarantee that human rights are protected and upheld
- Implement and localize the DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society to promote an enabling environment and locally-led development for CSOs, people's organizations and community-based organizations

India. Critically low adherence of the government, financial institutions and multinational corporations to development effectiveness contributed to the closing of civic space in India and presented additional barriers for effective partnerships with Indian CSOs.

- Adopt transparency and accountability measures to sufficiently regulate private sector investment and activities in development
- Guarantee funding for the localization of development approaches with the help of CSOs
- Build trust by pursuing genuine inclusive and participatory consultation with communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of development projects
- Uphold national laws, constitution and human rights principles in the conduct of development processes and projects
- Address the intersections of development issues through the lens of economic, social, gender and climate justice

Kyrgyzstan. In maintaining and building trust, there is a need to enhance the quality of partnerships between CSOs and other development actors in the country.

- Enable participation of CSOs in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes
- Uphold the watchdog function of CSOs in monitoring development projects and initiatives
- Improve the legal environment of CSOs by further refining the regulatory framework for CSO activities
- Provide the necessary funding to ensure sustainability of CSOs

GLOBAL KEY ASKS

Implementation of Effective Development Cooperation Commitments. Place the effectiveness agenda at the centre of development cooperation policies and plans, and ensure that effective development financing, equitably, at all levels, meets the urgency of the moment and contributes to leave no one behind.

- Uphold the centrality of human rights and the practice of human rights-based approach (HRBA) and feminist approach in development cooperation
- Uphold the mandate and integrity of ODA to eradicate poverty, address inequalities and promote economic development
- Reaffirm commitment in meeting 0.7% GNI target and avoid diverting ODA to the private sector and private sector instruments

- Refocus and revitalise the aid and development effectiveness agenda through a robust, gender transformative monitoring framework that regularly tracks progress towards the implementation of existing EDC commitments principles by all development actors
- Uphold principles of horizontal development cooperation – including solidarity, mutuality, human rights, respect for sovereignty, non-conditionality particularly with respect to unequal conditions of partnership that often prevail even within South-South cooperation
- Strengthen application of and accountability for gender-responsive approaches and targeted action for women and girls in the formulation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies
- Address underinvestment and increase accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

A CSO Enabling Environment. Invest new energy in efforts to provide an enabling environment for CSOs in light of shrinking and closing civic spaces in development, attacks on human rights defenders, increasing violence against women and girls, evolving and aggravated impacts of COVID-19, increasing disinformation and historical revisionism, rising authoritarianism, corporate capture, and widening militarism and conflicts in many countries.

- Retract restrictive and repressive laws and disabling conditions that hinder the full operation of CSOs, including ending all forms of militarisation and militarism
- Uphold all fundamental rights and freedoms including but not limited to freedom of association, of expression, and political participation, the rights to peaceful assembly and information
- Recognise CSO efforts in improving their effectiveness and accountability by supporting and promoting the *Istanbul Principles* and the *International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness*
- Agree on concrete steps and generate political buy-in for joint actions to strengthen the country action for CSO Enabling Environment and partnerships, by drawing on commitments to the CSOs enabling environment that guide how stakeholders should partner together better, including the role of trust-building measures

Private Sector Accountability. Ensure private sector entities adhere to the Kampala Principles for Private Sector Engagement and implement labour and human rights standards, and promote and practice decent work, social dialogue, and adopt transparency and accountability standards.

- Comply with international labour standards, apply responsible business conduct instruments and adopt guidelines and binding regulations, underpinned by these tools and the Kampala Principles on Private Sector Engagement
- Refrain from any human rights violations and ensure access to adequate and timely remedies when human rights violations do take place
- Support gender-sensitive Social Enterprises and Micro Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (MSMEs), especially in developing countries for the purpose of supporting sustainable national industrialisation and agriculture toward self-reliance
- Ensure the implementation and compliance of the right to Free, Prior, Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples in all projects and operations in their lands and territories

Coherent and Inclusive Responses to Crises of Conflict, Occupations, and Wars. Address the systemic causes to reverse the impacts of ongoing conflicts, to prevent an irreversible web of sustained crises, and to promote stability and just peace in conflict-affected areas.

- Avoid re-channelling of ODA for humanitarian and security funding and use it to maintain basic public services in situations of conflicts and crises
- Ensure the security of peoples' rights and lives amidst actions on peace and security
- Uphold obligations under International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law and adhere to the EDC and LNOB principles in the planning, programming, and financing of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (Triple) Nexus
- Apply a Feminist Development Justice model in all humanitarian, development, and peace programs for transformative change as envisaged by the Agenda 2030
- Actively encourage and support CSO's meaningful participation and initiatives in peacebuilding and crises-resolution, especially among refugees and IDPs, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth who are the most affected by conflict and crises

Effectiveness of Climate Finance. Upscale and deliver on climate finance commitments in order to meet the urgent need for sustainable and effective climate response.
- Realign climate finance with the EDC principles by incorporating democratic ownership, focus on results, transparency and accountability, and the inclusion of CSOs in climate-related discussions and decision-making processes
- Desist from double-counting climate finance commitments as ODA and uphold the separate mandate and integrity of both funding instruments
- Decolonise climate finance in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) by upscaling commitments from developed countries, incorporating specific financing for loss and damage, and prioritising grants over loans
- Align climate resilience and response policies with the imperative for a Just Transition
- Properly fund climate-impacted climate migration, internal and external displacement, relocation and resettlement
- Refrain from financing unsustainable projects that adversely affect peoples, including indigenous communities and other groups, the environment, and the world's biodiversity
- Increase access to financing and technology transfer for countries in the Global South
- Adapt a transformative and sustainable model for consumption and production

CIVIL SOCIETY ASPIRATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS SUMMIT

At the end of the Summit, all actors should agree, and include in the Outcome Document, to:
- Implement the revised GPEDC Monitoring Framework, including participation in the national Action Dialogues and provision of evidence of behaviour change in response to monitoring results
- Reiterate the commitment of ODA providers to increase development finance volumes, specifically in realising the 0.7% target by 2030, including the aid levels agreed for the LDCs, and increase donors' share of concessional resources
- Pledge to practice increased accountability for investments to women's rights and gender equality by making gender budget allocations publicly available
- Actively involve CSOs in the national development planning processes, including development cooperation forums, Action Dialogues and INFFs

- Commit ODA providers in setting a clear quantitative target for CSO support and other provisions
- Call on the private sector to pay its part in inclusive recovery through just and fair taxation and contribute to nationally-owned development plans, especially to cover health systems improvement in LDCs and finance climate loss and damages
- Contribute in localising humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach in line with the Grand Bargain agreement by 2025
- Address climate adaptation, loss and damages and increase climate finance directed to impacted target groups and other affected communities