

UN Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue and Asia Pacific Civil Society Consultation on the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015 (Bangkok, 26-28 Aug 2013)

Ms. Manu Shrivastava represented CECOEDECON to participate in the UNESCAP 'Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015' from 26-28 August, 2013 in Bangkok. She also participated and engaged in the preceding event, 'Asia-Pacific Civil Society Consultation for a Just and Transformative Development Agenda' from 23-24 August, 2013.

The Asia Pacific civil society consultation saw participation from 92 organizations from 21 countries across the Asia and Pacific. The two day conference assessed reports and CSO responses on Post-2015 process and updates on the intergovernmental process and discussed if these reflected the regional demands; analyzed major groups and stakeholders' responses to



the OWG, HLP and MG governance in relation to the broader demands for a 'transformative development agenda'; and strategized on increasing and improving coordination and involvement from Asia-Pacific civil society into the remaining decision making processes to challenge governments to adopt a bold, just and transformative development agenda.

At the end of the two-day consultation, a Bangkok Civil Society Declaration was released and submitted to the UN Secretariat during the Ministerial Dialogue that followed. The declaration proposed a model of Development Justice framed by five foundational shifts – redistributive justice, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice and accountability to people. Ms. Shrivastava shared CECOEDECON's experiences of grassroots work with small/medium holder farmers and other marginalized communities and their problems and expectations. She also contributed to the draft of the declaration and strongly pushed inclusion of environmental sustainability and justice in the declaration.

The UN Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue was the first of its kind, a regional

Ministerial-level event to discuss UN beyond 2015 development agenda after the



release of the report of the HLP. It invited many civil society representatives from the region including CECOEDECON. The ministerial acknowledged the challenges faced by the Asia-Pacific region on the post-2015 development agenda front, such as wide gap in income and poverty among different strata of society and within nations, gender inequality, migration, lack of access to education and health, new and emerging diseases, food

insecurity and malnutrition, lack of access to water and sanitation, natural disasters, environmental degradation and climate change.

Ms. Shrivastava attended the Ministerial and the side events and gave an intervention on the third day as a representative of the NGO Major Group. She gave concrete recommendations regarding the Means of Implementation and emphasized the importance of working with communities to achieve desired goals. Additional recommendations stated that Rio principles should be upheld by these means including the existing goals and commitments; regional assessments must be conducted to assess and customize financing requirements of each region; and labor laws must be respected. Some of these recommendations were incorporated by the secretariat in the outcome document.