

## **Vision and priorities of civil society, private sector and other Major Groups and other Stakeholders realizing the SDG during the COVID-19 recover**

Statement by Joan Carling on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group-IPMG and the Asia Pacific Regional Coordination and Engagement Mechanism-APRCM

While around 2 billion people live in extreme poverty, 10% of the global population holds 88% of the global wealth; and 1% holds 50 % of economic assets. During the pandemic, while the majority suffered a range of challenges, and workers lost trillions of dollars, billionaires saw their wealth increase by \$3.9 trillion dollars last year. This glaring reality on the accumulation of wealth and economic power by transnational corporations and rich individuals REQUIRES SYSTEMIC CHANGE to transform the neo-liberal global economy that perpetuates this rising inequalities, and unsustainable development. It also requires effective measures to combat illicit financial flows that includes tax evasion and money laundering.

Reforming global economic governance, including the unjust trade and investment agreements, should also be a priority to guarantee the protection of the rights, interest and welfare of workers, farmers, indigenous peoples, women, marginalized sectors and small business entrepreneurs. This should include debt cancellation, and removing trade rules that impede governments' ability to deliver public services and access to technologies including in relation to medicines and related products to allow all governments to accelerate their efforts to address the COVID 19 pandemic. Global solidarity and cooperation is needed now to end this pandemic.

Likewise, transformative actions are necessary to dismantle the powerful structures and systems that is causing the resurgence of authoritarian regimes and militarism driven by deep-rooted patriarchy, fundamentalism, feudalism, casteism, racism, discrimination and lack of effective accountability mechanisms. The worsening situation in Burma/Myanmar calls for the UN General Assembly and other bodies to recognize and support the National Unity Government as the interim government; and to apply effective sanctions to dis-empower the present military Junta.

Addressing the systemic barriers to sustainable development also requires the economic and political empowerment of the people particularly the poor; and building and strengthening vibrant democratic and inclusive government systems with effective accountability mechanisms at all levels; and policy coherence instead of silos so we can uphold human rights, social justice, cultural diversity and the protection of the environment.

**To conclude, global solidarity and System Change are the antidotes to the pandemic and are imperative to advance sustainable development for all.**