

Second World Summit for Social Development

Oral Statement: High Level Roundtable 2

5 November 2025

Asia Pacific Foundation for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ECOSOC Status)

Delivered by: Alexandra Johns, Executive Director

Excellencies, honourable delegates, fellow advocates and activists,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Foundation for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, along with MSI Reproductive Choices, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) and Youth Voices Count.

As a member of the Global South Coalition for SRHR and Development Justice, we endeavour to strengthen the two-way linkage between the right to development, and sexual and reproductive health and Rights (SRHR) and gender.

We congratulate you on the adoption of the Doha Declaration, which commits to build a more just, inclusive and sustainable world, and acknowledges the urgent need to address profound social challenges by addressing underlying structural causes.

As a core pillar of social protection and development justice, health is a critical driver behind the creation of a more equitable and just world, especially in the context of debt and economic crisis and the ongoing conflict in parts of the Asia Pacific region.

Delivering on the right to health requires ensuring that no one is pushed into poverty when paying out of pocket for essential health services or products including medicine. Yet, the latest regional estimates (2019) reveal that 326 million people are spending more than 10% of their household budget as out-of-pocket expenditure on health alone.

Investment into people centered Universal Health Coverage (UHC) must be prioritized, without conditions or exclusions. This includes access to comprehensive, quality, sexual and reproductive health services, including safe abortion, as well as information and sexuality education. All individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, have the right to the highest attainable standard of health and the fulfilment of their bodily autonomy.

30 years after the first World Social Summit, we express our deep concern that civic space is being closed, which runs contrary to the spirit of the Copenhagen Declaration. Civil society are indispensable in the achievement of sustainable development, by centering the needs and rights of those who are most marginalized, enabling them to live with dignity founded on human rights.

We close by urging policy coherence with the International Conference on Population and Development Programme for Action (ICPD PoA), and the Beijing Platform for Action, which also advances the achievement of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.