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Intervention for Agenda Item 3. Towards the 2023 SDGs Summit

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**The Workers and Trade Unions of the Asia Pacific Region urge governments to support the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, as a key element of recovery in the region that would help accelerate progress in the achievement of Agenda 2030.**

We welcome the leading role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in this process, at a time when the global labor market is broken and when more than 60% of the workforce is in the informal economy, without any rights.

The accelerator is critical to address a world that is facing a convergence of crises—deteriorating health, climate instability, growing inequalities, widespread unemployment and underemployment, and rights hardly recognized— that is driven by an economic system ruled by corporate greed, that does not benefit working people and leaves them behind,

As countries have sought to mitigate the health and economic effects of the crisis, revenues are falling due to lower growth and trade. Coupled with higher debt burdens, countries now face a difficult trade-off between increasing much-needed public investments to overcome the crisis, achieve a human-centered recovery and facilitate the structural transformations and just transitions that are necessary to achieve the SDGs and beyond; and, on the other hand, containing debt vulnerabilities.

For Trade unions, the Global Accelerator is consistent with the objectives on job creation, universal social protection and just transitions for all.

This also means that international labour standards and social dialogue must underpin national plans for jobs, universal social protection, skills and community renewal. With this and global solidarity, we have a fighting chance to rebuild the region.

There are millions of job creation opportunities just waiting to be created in several sectors, such as care, education, infrastructure, and renewables.

“For every ten jobs in renewables, you get five to ten jobs in manufacturing, and you get 30 to 35 in the broader economy.

There is potential for work creation in the climate transition, since every sector has to transition, including our heavy industries.

**We call on member states to commit to the Global Accelerator and to speeding up progress in the achievement of the SDGs by doing the following:**

- Ensure an integrated vision of jobs and social protection strategies.
- Emphasize the centrality of labor rights and decent work.
- Promote policy coherence in national government policies and across the UN agencies.
- Recognize trade unions as development partners and include them in SDGs implementation through constructive and meaningful social dialogue at the national level.
- Look seriously at solidarity financing, including by supporting debt relief and debt cancelation, increasing ODA for social protection and supporting the establishment of the Global Fund for Social Protection, and advocating for pension funds to contribute to the Fund
- Support the UN Global Care Alliance