

People Affected by Conflict and Disasters

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen & Dear Colleagues from Civil Society Organisations!

I am representing North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS), Assam from North-East part of India and speak here on behalf of the constituency 'Peoples Affected by Conflict and Disasters' of APRCEM.

Asia-Pacific region is highly vulnerable to increased humanitarian crisis, protracted disasters and climate crisis with many countries in the top of the climate change risk index. Most of the disaster displacement recorded globally has taken place in the region with an estimated 225.3 million internal displacements or forced movements.

In South-Asia, South-East Asia and North-East Asia with the growing war and conflict situation, militarisation, weak governance and political instability, the need for humanitarian assistance is in the rising trend, which are also impacting implementation and progress SDGs in the region.

We see a worrying trend of many UN agencies highlighting plight of the people for raising more funds to meet humanitarian needs, however we do not see equal political efforts invested in seeking early and durable solutions to shrink the needs during conflicts and disasters.

Across the Asia, development aggression and plight of indigenous peoples are mounting in form of land grabbing, extractive industries, large scale mining, large energy infrastructure projects, agribusiness, causing displacement of millions of indigenous peoples from their lands and territories. Development induced disasters are increasing, peoples' rights are systematically violated which has been resulting in increased marginalization.

We recommend that these systemic barriers are recognized and addressed in favour people demanding development justice and accountability:

- We believe that humanitarian aid and needs of affected people can be better addressed by involving feedback from the people affected by crisis, to ensuring that the funds are being spent to meet the needs of the affected populations. Local communities need to be consulted, and included in the process, with dignity, for control over resources and a better community-led response.
- Humanitarian aid must go hand in hand with concerted efforts on humanitarian advocacy and political action by the states to find durable solutions.
- There is a vital need to integrate the nexus approach of humanitarian+development+peace+climate in Global Humanitarian Response Plans.
- We advocate to devolve power to local responders in the developing countries. Funding and decision-making power is needed at the local level, donors must action their Grand Bargain commitments.
- We believe that sustainable and effective climate responses must have local priorities at their core as local actors and at-risk communities are best placed to identify problems and solutions based in their traditional knowledge.