

Thank you madam moderator,

I speak on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (the ITUC), representing 207 million workers in 163 countries.

The regional trade union confederations have been actively participating in the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.

We note a significant inconsistency in the space provided for meaningful contribution.

We would like to highlight the positive experience of the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism. In cooperation with ESCAP, it has maximized the venues it helped create towards mainstreaming the concerns of working people and civil society more broadly, in a coordinated and synergized manner.

We do not want to paint too rosy a picture, however. The space for workers' interests to be represented has been shirking. Trade unionists are targeted by intimidation, violence and even murder. The consequences resonate throughout society. People are scared to represent their own interests, which are then muted in decision-making spaces. This reality needs to be addressed throughout the 2030 Agenda process.

We also want to highlight the need to bring the ILO into the fold at regional level, with its vital role in shaping the world of work to the demands of the 2030 Agenda.

Let me finish by highlighting Sweden's point: the 2030 Agenda acknowledges that without an inclusive process, resulting policies will not be successful in leaving no one behind.

Trade unions join their voice to the call to mainstream a genuinely inclusive approach at regional level.

Thank you