

INTERVENTION AS LEAD DISCUSSANT (Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria) ON JULY 12, 2022 AT THE HLPF SESSION: VISION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Thank you Ajay

Mr President of ESCOSOC, Ladies & Gentlemen

Thank you for this opportunity as a Lead discussant.

So far the panel speakers have highlighted a number of significant points.

An analysis of the presentations

First, they all affirmed the importance and place of CSOs as joint partners in the implementation of the SDGs

Second, there was a call to listen to the voices of the grassroots and that the High level discussion must capture the realities from the ground.

Third, the concerns of countries getting into debt, urgent needs for financing for development and the responsibility of developed nations towards poor nations in solidarity

Fourth, the issues pertaining to land and injustices including the corporate capture

Fifth, the issues of war and its impact on peace and SDGs was highlighted as a major concern

In this context the issues highlighted by CSO leaders reveal their passion, commitment and articulation of these concerns for global and national action. The thoughts are refreshing, timely and dynamic and therefore both the UN and national.

However the space for active and holistic involvement is very limited for CSOs at the UN platform as well as at the national level.

Therefore there is a need to create the policies, structure, financing and mechanism

Proposal

In this context may I propose that the ESCOSOC President establishes a 10 member panel (5 Member-States & 5 Major group members) with co-chairs from both Member States and CSOs.

The terms of reference could include :-

To prepare a Mid Term Review Report on the current status of CSO participation and future recommendations

To institute a global conversation (international, regional, national and local) with CSOs and Member States and draw out best practices, noting the challenges and formulate future possibilities (enabling policies and mechanisms)

To present a draft report at the July 2023 HLPF and a final report at the 2023 SDG Summit in Sept 2023 for adoption as new modalities for engagement.

I am sure Member States like Malaysia, Norway, Mexico and Tanzania will be happy to be part of this panel and assist to facilitate a renewed CSO- Member state SDG multi stakeholder engagement mechanism.

Thank you