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HLPF SESSION “SDG 14”

5 July, 2022- 4:30 – 5:30 pm (EDT)

Intervencion de Julius Cainglet, Vice-President, Free Federation of Workers of the Philippines, on Behalf of the Workers and Trade Unions Major Group (International Trade Union Confederation) and APRCEM

Increased pollution, warming and acidification of marine resources are disrupting marine ecosystems and the communities they support.

The ongoing degradation of ecosystems is having profound consequences for human well-being and survival. Together with the pandemic, these continue to have a dramatic impact in terms of job losses and increased levels of informality, leading to a growingly precarious situation for workers in related sectors, such as fishery and agriculture.

Thus, we call on governments to:

- **Invest in decent, climate-friendly jobs** that are able to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and that are based on gender-responsive just transition measures, including job creation in sustainable fishery. Political and technological support are crucial. The **UN Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions** is a key tool in this respect.
- **Establish public employment programmes** that promote green jobs through natural resource management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems and environmental rehabilitation, including stricter monitoring and prevention of destruction of mangrove areas to protect coastal communities from storm surges and help ensure local food self sufficiency
- Update basic, tertiary and technical and vocational education curricula to tackle climate issues in all subjects and grade levels in order to ensure that all students are **climate literate** and have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to take climate action. Provide equal access to quality education and training—both formal and informal to enhance lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Promote policies to support the formalisation of the informal economy of at least one billion people by 2030, including small scale fishers as key stakeholders to ensure their livelihoods are protected.
- Strictly enforce enacted treaties and conventions between and among countries for: fisheries, pollution control, shipping and national sovereignty, especially with respect to exclusive economic zones and better management of marine resources.
- Enhance fishing fleets to have resilience to climate change while ensuring decent working conditions, social protection and respect for the rights of maritime workers.
- Establish and strengthen social dialogue mechanisms and multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure that workers in the fishery sector and people in fishing communities effectively participate in coastal management plans, resource governance and employment promotion; and steer national development efforts and support the design and implementation of human-centred recovery and resilience policies.

Thank you, Chair!

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