

Statement for Permanent Forum

Distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, Excellencies, my dear human rights defenders of PAD, good day.

I am Phillip Binondo from the Philippines, a former UN fellow for PAD.

Today, I come forward to speak on behalf of our newly formed Asia Pacific Network of PAD following the Asia Pacific Regional meeting last January. Our association is composed of former fellows based in the region coming from the Philippines, China, Australia, Thailand and Japan.

Our biggest concern from the region has been our lack of visibility and recognition.

Despite being the most populous region with a steady increase of our presence in the Asia Pacific through migration, it is disheartening to be made invisible simply because of the lack of disaggregated data. It is our hope that issues of anti-black racism in the Asia Pacific get as much interest and attention as it does in the Americas and Europe as our struggles are as challenging and dehumanizing compared to others.

With this said, we would like to make the following 3 recommendations:

1. Adoption of another decade for PAD in order to give Asia Pacific member states and emerging CSOs in the region the opportunity to fulfill the aspirations of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action. This will allow stakeholders to make positive contributions on disaggregated data collection, adoption of national comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and promoting the right to development of PAD ensuring the realization of leaving no one behind under the SDG 2030.
2. Increased positive engagement between the Asia Pacific member states and the Permanent Forum. We aspire to see more members states from the region participate in meetings on PAD and hopefully more seats allocated for the region as well as inclusion of youth representation in its membership to reflect the current demographics worldwide.
3. Increased support for newly established and emerging CSOs through capacity building, training and more frequent consultations to strengthen our institutional capabilities ensuring more sustainable partnerships in this advocacy.

Thank you for your time and attention.