



Excellencies, panelists, civil society colleagues, Good Morning.

I Helen Saldanha from VIVAT International speak on behalf of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs.

The ILO reports that developing countries need \$1 trillion to maintain their pre-pandemic gap with respect to richer countries. According to the World Bank, the pandemic could plunge 150 million people into poverty by December 2021. Faced with rising unemployment, lockdowns, and declining migrant remittances, families fear hunger and eviction. Illicit activities such as kickbacks and contract malfeasance derail outlays for resources and services. Foreign assistance fails to reach community-based organizations and small enterprises which are crucial to the economic survival of women and all residents of marginalized communities.

While developed countries now face the challenge of managing their economic recovery from the pandemic, the survival of people in developing countries depend on their government's ability to address its rising debt burdens and illicit outflow of resources. As NGOs working with marginalized communities providing services, which governments have not been able to provide, we see that countries with legislated social protection policies can address the fallout from the pandemic more effectively than countries that put social protection policies as an ad-hoc stop-gap arrangement. Financial leverage is crucial to a country's ability to carry out its duties as providers of public goods and we urge all developed countries to honor their commitment to provide .7% of their GNI as ODA. We call for a globally coordinated strategy, not to build back on what was already broken but "by being human with human beings", ensuring heightened systemic equity, legislated social protection policies, and adequate financial resources.