Tessa Khan, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Your Excellencies, distinguished speakers, honourable members and delegates

It is a privilege to be invited to speak to this Assembly. I am especially grateful to be speaking on behalf of the members of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development who daily confront and challenge the poverty, exploitation and inequality experienced by millions of women in our region.

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Redressing this imbalance is the basic mandate of the Financing for Development process, but despite commitments in Monterrey and in Doha to advance a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system[4], we are here, yet again, in crisis.

If governments were to seize this opportunity to build on the consensus in Monterrey, what might financing for development really achieve? I can tell you that in Bangladesh—which is one of my homes—it could mean new choices for the hundreds of thousands of women and girls who go to work in export processing zones, where their low wages, dangerous conditions of work, and the hostility to trade unions are presented as incentives for foreign investment. It could mean that the multinationals who profit from cheap Bangladeshi labour and then engage in tax evasion and transfer pricing are made to pay back the billions of dollars that they owe in tax. It could mean some measure of protection for the millions of Bangladeshis who are struggling to grow crops in soil poisoned by salt water as sea levels rise; whose land and livelihoods are disappearing.

For my other home, Australia, financing for development could mean sharing 0.7% of its abundant wealth, an abundance that makes it one of the wealthiest countries in the world[5]; it could mean supporting developing countries to exercise the same level of policy space and ownership over their trade and industrial policy that Australia benefited from in many stages of its development; it could mean taking responsibility for the fact that Australians are among the highest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases in the world.

That would be a model of financing for development that fulfils the promise of its mandate and addresses the challenges we face in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity.[6]

to address all of the elements of the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, critical elements of the Monterrey Consensus are being disregarded, including systemic fragilities. This undermines our ability to hold governments accountable to the agreements made in Monterrey and Doha. Without accountability for these commitments, we are wasting precious time.

Second, we are alarmed that, on the whole, the Accord weakens the normative obligations of developed countries to create a more just and equitable economic order; obligations that are present and urgent. The global partnership for development—the cornerstone of development cooperation—continues to be eroded: by the lack of binding timetables for ODA that meets the 0.7% threshold; by the focus on middle-income countries, whose contributions in no way absolve developed countries of their responsibilities; and by the clear push to shift the resolution of key development challenges—such as debt restructuring and tax evasi vulnerable, especially when—as we heard during yesterday's business sector hearings—the business case for increasing women's access to finance, for example, isn't considered to be very strong. Only by recognising women's equal entitlements based on our human rights will governments and businesses feel obliged to address the structural constraints faced by women.

Addressing these constraints goes beyond the need to redistribute the burden of unpaid care work, or the disproportionate impact of regressive taxes on women, although these are essential steps. It requires the redistribution of resources, opportunities and wealth between rich and poor, between men and women, and between countries.

Growth without redistribution cannot eradicate poverty or give us sustainable