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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Activists disrupt the final day of APEC's Women and the Economy Forum with the message:  
"Women Over Profit!"**

SEATTLE, WA – On Sunday, August 20th over 100 activists staged a protest and disruption of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's Women and the Economy Forum. Around noon, over 20 activists entered the delegate-only 2nd level of the Sheraton Hotel chanting and holding signs with the message "women over profit." Although security attempted to shut down the action, protesters continued chanting while marching down into the main lobby where 30 more demonstrators unfurled banners and shared a message addressing the failures of APEC. Eventually the assembly marched outside and joined with more protesters condemning the neoliberal policies which APEC promotes.

Outside the hotel, the International Women's Alliance (IWA) held a "Peoples' Women and the Economy Forum" featuring women from tech, labor, environmental, food sovereignty, healthcare, and migrant sectors who exposed the failures of APEC's Women and the Economy Forum to meet the needs of women around the region. IWA, a global alliance of organizations who oppose US imperialism's impacts on women, emphasized that APEC's proposed measures of pushing women into markets and into low-paying jobs ignores the material needs of a majority of women in the Asia-Pacific region.

Katie, US coordinator for IWA, directly addressed some of the women who participated in the APEC summit inside the hotel: "To Jen Klein and the rest of the Gender Policy Council: how dare you claim that you have improved the lives of women when we are being jailed for having abortions, when women in detention facilities are raped and sterilized, when our public benefits that help us feed our families are being cut? Your Gender Policy Council only serves as propaganda for an administration who has held women's rights hostage to gain votes! We know that you represent the interests of the corporations that most exploit and oppress us. Stop taking money from Amazon, from Boeing, from Cargill, from Meta, and start listening to the people's demands: put women over profit!"

Katie continued, "When APEC says that women are an untapped resource and the solution is access to capital, it wrongly excludes that groups like APEC are the reason why women are poor in the first place! We know our needs and we are here to demand them because wherever APEC goes the people fight back!" Sammi, from the Interim Revolutionary Feminist Committee (IRFC), made this clear by exposing

how “over 40,000 women in Mexico have been killed or disappeared since trade liberalization policies began.”

Kiera from IRFC and Municipal Eco-Resiliency Project directly connected the corporate interests sponsoring APEC to the climate crisis currently causing deadly wildfires and extreme weather around the world. She exposed how “disaster capitalism disproportionately affects women, who because of social relations under the dual oppressions of patriarchy and capitalism, are expected to pull heavier weight in domestic, reproductive, and sexual labor, therefore have less access to land, less access to job stability, and less access to financial security during times of vulnerability.”

In highlighting the ways that neoliberal free trade has resulted in the landlessness, malnutrition, and exploitation of millions of peasant women across the Asia-Pacific, Stephanie of Black Star Farmers demanded, “why is it so often that — even though we planted the seeds, grew the food, and prepared the meals — we are the last to eat?”

Other speakers emphasized the dire conditions facing migrant women as well as the necessity for women to organize themselves as workers in order to fight back against the corporations who profit off the suffering and exploitation of working and peasant and working women around the world.

Speakers ended the rally with calls to join mobilizations in San Francisco in November to oppose APEC’s final round of meetings in the US this year and to directly confront heads of state who will be attending, including Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Joe Biden, Jokowi, Dina Boularte, and many more. After declaring their action a success, the crowd of 100+ people marched together away from the Sheraton chanting “No to APEC!” and “We will be back!”

*More information at [www.PNW-POP.com](http://www.PNW-POP.com)*

*Additional Photos included below (all photos attributed to PNW-POP)*

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*Activists disrupted APEC's Women and Economy Forum on the second floor of the Sheraton with chants demanding "Women Over Profit!"*



*Activists hold signs on second floor of Sheraton during disruption of APEC's Women and the Economy Forum*



*Activists hold signs and a banner in front of the Grand Ballroom during APEC's Women and the Economy forum*



*Activists in the lobby of the Grand Sheraton hotel staged a flash mobilization, chanting "no to APEC" they were joined by the organizers from the second floor*



*Activists moved from lobby of the Sheraton to outside - continuing to amplify the demands that APEC put women over profit*



*Activists move outside the Sheraton - where they joined with even more protesters and heard from speakers in from tech, agriculture, labor. Climate, migrant, and healthcare sectors*



*Protesters outside the Sheraton hold signs “Prosperity for Who” and “Women unite against APEC”*



*Speakers outside the Sheraton emphasize how APEC’s closed-door meetings fail to meaningfully address women’s needs and amplify the issues of women in APEC member economies*