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Rücker

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Indigenous Peoples' Rights und „Disaster Risk Reduction“

Mr President, Mr High Commissioner,



allow me to thank the panelists for their interesting insights. We welcome the initiative to bring together the rights of indigenous peoples, including the principles contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and disaster risk reduction.

Indeed, indigenous communities are often among the most exposed when it comes to natural disasters. At the same time, indigenous people possess a vast body of knowledge and effective skills to prepare for and cope with disaster.

That is why German development cooperation sees a clear benefit in engaging indigenous communities in decision-making processes when designing disaster risk reduction strategies. Not only is such an approach good human rights policy, it is also in line with free, prior and informed consent. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to this principle.

We implement this for example in the framework of the *Forest Carbon Partnership*, facilitated by the World Bank. And we support indigenous participation in the design and execution of REDD+ strategies (*UN Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries*). In our view, preventing deforestation and forest degradation present an essential part of strengthening resilience and preventing disasters.

Germany promotes disaster risk reduction in the context of its strategy on transitional development assistance. We aim to integrate the issue into development agendas and emphasize the importance of establishing close links with national as well as local disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans. Local and institutional levels need to interact and this must also include indigenous communities. By doing this, we greatly increase the resilience of such communities.

Thank you for allowing us to share in this interesting discussion. We would be interested to hear whether the panel could offer more insight into how indigenous knowledge can be better integrated into national disaster risk reduction strategies?