

Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples
Item 12: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and
Social Council and emerging issues
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation and Khmer Kampuchea Krom Buddhist Temple
Speaker: Vichea Om

Madame Chair,

Indigenous peoples must be recognized as stakeholders and supported to participate at every level -- national, regional and global.

As Khmer Krom, we want indigenous participation in national consultation in preparation for reporting to the Voluntary National Review with firsthand experience to realize the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Indigenous peoples have a pivotal role to play in achieving the Global Goals. For indigenous peoples to assume their rightful role as partners in the process, the right to self-determination and collective rights to land and resources must be respected.

We are Khmer Krom, as a distinct group with specific rights and conditions to consider when designing poverty reduction and food security strategies and programs with effective engagement in positive partnership. To successfully achieve and accomplish the UN SDGS, the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples is required in development projects that affect us.

Also, a grievance mechanism and ensured equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms must be developed as well as legal recognition of the customary collective land rights of indigenous peoples along with adoption of indicators to monitor progress in the UN SDG process, especially Target 2.3. We also call to legally recognize the land rights of indigenous women specifically, within the collective land rights of indigenous peoplesKKF.

We understand the UN must guarantee continued institutionalization of mechanisms for the effective participation and representation of indigenous peoples in processes relating to SDGs including data disaggregation based on indigenous identity. The UN should ensure adequate finance and resources for targeted programs in plans that address poverty, food security, health and self-determined development of indigenous peoples.

Thank you, Madam Chair