



**STATEMENT BY THE WORLD BANK GROUP
15TH SESSION OF THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

**ITEM 4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIX MANDATED¹ AREAS OF THE PERMANENT FORUM
WITH REFERENCE TO THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

Madam/Mr. Chairperson, Honorable Permanent Forum members, Indigenous Peoples’ representatives, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the World Bank Group, I would like to congratulate Mr. Alvaro Pop on his election as the chairperson of the 15th session of the Forum. My colleagues and I are honored to participate again in this year’s Permanent Forum. Like other years, we have a full engagement agenda including co-hosting two side events yesterday, meeting with Indigenous Peoples’ representatives, UN agencies and government representatives. The World Bank is pleased to update the Permanent Forum on its active work with Indigenous Peoples worldwide on a number of issues directly affecting them.

The World Bank is continuing to deepen its understanding of Indigenous Peoples’ priorities, needs and issues at the country and regional levels through analytical studies that will improve the design and implementation of projects and programs that involve Indigenous Peoples, and by direct dialogue with Indigenous leaders and their representative organizations.

In April 2015, the World Bank held High Level meetings in Washington, D.C. with thirty leaders representing Indigenous Peoples from around the world as part of its global dialogue and engagement process that started in early 2013. This global dialogue with Indigenous Peoples highlighted progress, and provided representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations with a platform to help chart the Bank’s roadmap to continue strengthening its partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Some of the recommendations are currently being

¹ Six Mandated Areas are Health, Education, Human Rights, Economic and Social Development, Environment, and Culture

implemented, while at the same time, we continue to assess and plan within the Bank how to best take action on other pending recommendations.

The Bank is also committed to both strengthening country capacity to enhance effective engagement with Indigenous Peoples as well as to strengthen and build the capacity of Indigenous Peoples' organizations. This support includes a dedicated grant mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and local communities by the Forest Investment Program (FIP), a Capacity Building Program for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and global, regional, and local consultations in the context of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Indigenous Peoples are also observers to the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Ten Indigenous observers are representatives on the Climate Investment Funds Trust Fund Committees and three sub-committees, and also on the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. These observers have a critical role to play in assisting the CIF engagement with Indigenous Peoples' organizations at the country level, through their own networks and with the assistance of multilateral development banks and civil society organizations.

The World Bank seeks to position excluded and marginalized sectors of society, such as Indigenous Peoples, at the center of the development agenda. This includes: strengthening the policy and institutional frameworks affecting Indigenous Peoples; Supporting Indigenous Peoples' priorities and views of self-development, through capacity development in line with cultural values and traditional knowledge; demonstrating the important role that Indigenous Peoples can play in the management of fragile ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and economic development; and disseminating lessons learned from Indigenous Peoples' development initiatives to national governments and the international donor community.

Mr. Chairperson, having achieved a global consensus on Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Accord were landmark policy achievements this past year. This presents the global community an opportunity to help make the world more equitable, just, healthier, secure, and peaceful from the unacceptable risks posed by climate change, improper development, extreme poverty, inequality, and exclusion. The world has indeed

entered a new paradigm of global cooperation to address climate change and sustainable development and the World Bank remains committed in this context in pursuit of our twin goals: to end extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The World Bank does not only support the post-2015 agenda, but we have taken ownership and want to assist with a successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For the World Bank, this is grounded in the broader context of social, economic and environmental sustainability, and inclusive social development that addresses vulnerability, exclusion, unaccountable institutions, marginalization, and exposure to violence. In line with this year's theme of the Permanent Forum, we have projects that tangibly address this year's theme: Indigenous Peoples and conflict, peace and resolution. For example, the World Bank is working in the Latin American region where we are actively involved in supporting the analytical foundations of the Government of Colombia's post-conflict peace processes that have impacted Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants' communities, drawing from experience and good practices both from Colombia itself, Peru and other countries. In Africa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the World Bank is working on Indigenous Peoples' rights especially as they relate to land tenure. Since much conflict takes place over lands, territories and natural resources, lessons learned in this region will serve to help scale up impact on tenure security as an important pillar in conflict reduction and prevention especially in the development and conservation context.

As we all know, extreme poverty and systemic social, political and economic exclusion and inequality often contribute to conflict and instability. A few months ago, we also launched a new report by the World Bank, "Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century," which shines new light on the situation of Indigenous Peoples across Latin America. We presented this report at a UN Permanent Forum side event yesterday and the report is widely available on our website. The study revealed that over the first decade of the new millennium, Indigenous Peoples across Latin America made significant social progress including reduction of poverty levels in several countries and gained improved access to basic services during the boom of the first decade of the century, but they did not benefit to the same extent as non-Indigenous Latin Americans. This report acknowledges that Indigenous Peoples have a more nuanced

understanding of what development is and why it matters. If Indigenous Peoples are to assume their role as key actors in the post-2015 agenda, Indigenous Peoples' voices, knowledge, and ideas need to be considered. This entails reviewing not only the procedures under which development is implemented, but also how development goals are set and the mechanisms used for assessing progress toward them. Our study found that driving the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples forward is not only important in itself, as a way of constructing a more equitable, just, and prosperous society, but it is also a collective necessity, as Latin America is unlikely to end poverty and achieve sustainable development without the participation of Indigenous Peoples. The same is true to all regions of the world and as such, the World Bank is committed to a process of engagement and working with Indigenous Peoples to deepen opportunities for development in line with identity, and to offer suggestions to advance these goals.

Our work is aimed at mainstreaming and integrating Indigenous Peoples' issues, good practices, and approaches across a wide range of projects in the Bank. As a result, the Bank understands that robust and effective environmental and social policies are key to achieving the World Bank's goals of reducing poverty and building shared prosperity. In July 2012, the World Bank embarked on a review and update of its policies to protect people and the environment in the projects it finances.

Our goal is to create a framework that: boosts protections for the environment and the poorest and most vulnerable people; drives sustainable development through capacity- and institution-building and country ownership; and enhances efficiency for both the borrower and the Bank. Our instructions from the Board, based in part on a 2010 report from the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), were to revise the existing safeguards policies to increase coverage and harmonization across the Bank group; enhance client capacity, responsibility and ownership; strengthen safeguards supervision, monitoring, evaluation to ensure rigorous implementation of our policies; and improve accountability and grievance redress systems and instruments for communities and individuals who feel they have been harmed as a result of World Bank-financed investment projects.

We have just finished discussions on phase 3 of the review, with a broad range of stakeholders including Indigenous Peoples on a revised draft of the proposed framework. This presents an updated, risk-based approach to protecting the environment and people. The World Bank's job now is to revise the second draft Vision Statement, Policy and Standards based on input from these consultations. The Board of Executive Directors will decide the final text of these three instruments. We expect to send the next draft to a subcommittee of the Bank's Board later this summer.

Honorable members, Indigenous Peoples have been and will continue to be a vital part of the global development agenda since development that meets the needs, priorities, culture and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples will help catalyze systemic change by addressing root causes of exclusion, disparity, and discrimination. The work of the World Bank to address Indigenous Peoples' development at the local, national, regional and international levels is vital to the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights, peace, equitable development and inclusive governance.

Before handing over to my colleague Yoko Watanabe of the Global Environmental Facility, I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to Berta Cáceres, a tireless advocate for indigenous people whose loss is palpable. The president of the World Bank has offered his deepest condolences to the family, colleagues and friends of Ms. Cáceres and our full support to Honduras in its efforts to address the development challenges related to violence and indigenous peoples.

Thank you ! [Greeting in your traditional language]