

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Sixteenth session  
New York, 24 April-5 May 2017**

**Item 9: 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development**

**Statement of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Joan Carling, co-convener of the IPMG on behalf of Tebtebba Foundation**

I am speaking for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for the Sustainable Development Goals as the co-convener of this group on behalf of Tebtebba Foundation, along with Roberto Borrero of the International Indian Treaty Council.

Madame Chairperson, we welcome the Update Report on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN Permanent Forum. This report provides useful information on indigenous peoples' issues and the engagements by the Permanent Forum and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group—IPMG-- in relevant SDG processes including the High Level Political Forum held last year.

Madame Chairperson, the High Level Political Forum-- HLPF on Sustainable Development this year in July will review 44 national reports of which 23 countries have indigenous peoples with 7 from Asia, 11 from Latin America and Caribbean, 3 from Africa; and Sweden and Denmark. We welcome the interest of States to voluntarily present their national plans and strategies, and progress in the implementation of the SDGs. However, we are concerned that many indigenous peoples in these countries are yet to be informed and be included in the local and national SDG processes in spite of the principles of the SDGs to be inclusive, participatory and transparent. We thereby urge States reporting in the HLPF to ensure the participation of and inclusion of the aspirations and the protection of the rights and welfare of indigenous peoples in SDG strategies and actions.

The theme of this year's High Level Political Forum is "*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*". Based on this theme, it is imperative for States and development actors to address the failures and gaps of the MDGs that resulted to indigenous being left behind. These gaps include lack of disaggregated data based on indigenous identifier; non-recognition of indigenous peoples as distinct groups with specific perspectives and rights; lack of meaningful participation in designing and implementing development interventions, which consequently were not culturally sensitive and the focus on economic growth with less attention to environment and

social dimensions resulting to negative outcomes for indigenous peoples. We also want to stress the urgent need to legally recognize and secure the customary lands and resources of indigenous peoples, and empowerment of indigenous women are key elements in achieving the SDGs.

Madam Chair, as we indigenous peoples need to step up our engagement with the 2030 Agenda, I am pleased to inform all participants that the IP Major Group for the SDGs has created a Global Coordinating Committee composed of regional focal organizations, and are calling for affiliate membership of indigenous organizations to the IPMG to expand its information sharing, coordination and sustained engagement of indigenous peoples in the High Level Political Forum and relevant SDGs process. For the HLPF this year, the application for funding for participants from countries for the Voluntary National Reviews of the HLPF is now open and we call on concerned indigenous representatives to apply.

The IP Major Group has submitted its thematic report to UNDESA on the theme this year, and will be coordinating the preparation of further reports, participation and engagements of indigenous peoples to the HLPF and other relevant events. We welcome and encourage the cooperation of indigenous peoples' organizations in working with the IPMG for our concerted efforts to amplify our voices in promoting and protecting our rights and aspirations, including the promotion of our contributions to sustainable development and our self-determined development.

Madame Chair, the IP Major Group recommends the following to the Permanent Forum:

1. To strengthen its collaboration with the IPMG for the engagement of indigenous peoples in the SDG processes
2. To follow-up and engage with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Indicators for inclusion of the indicator on the legal recognition of the customary land rights of indigenous peoples for the targets under Goal 1 and 2.
3. To call on UN agencies, funds and programmes to establish partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions and with the IPMG in promoting the rights, welfare and aspirations of indigenous peoples including our self-determined development, capacity building, advocacy, data- generation and dis-aggregation among others.
4. To urge States to establish specific mechanisms for consultation, participation and representation of indigenous peoples in local and national process and bodies relating to the SDGs
5. To call on States to allocate adequate funding and resources to implement appropriate plans and strategies in addressing poverty, food insecurity, health and education for indigenous peoples, and in conducting data- disaggregation based on ethnicity of indigenous identifier. THANK YOU!

