

Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples
Item 9: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation and Khmer Kampuchea Krom Buddhist Temple
Speaker: Minh Dung Tran

Madam Chair,

Indigenous peoples must be recognized as stakeholders and supported to participate at every level -- national, regional and global. On the behalf of the Khmer Krom people, 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, we assume the rightful role as partners in the process the right to self-determination and collective rights to land and resources must be respected.

We as the Khmer Krom people have 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 affects us.

- We ask that there is grievance mechanisms and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms that must be developed
- We also ask that member states legally recognize 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.
 - The Mekong Delta region provides nearly all of the agricultural rice production for VN, but sea level rise has resulted in saltwater intrusion of the our farmlands and increasingly hinders our ability to sustain ourselves. The Khmer Krom people of the Mekong Delta have increasingly come to rely on saltwater shrimp farming as it generates significantly more income than traditional rice farming, but is not a sustainable form of agriculture. Its common practices utilizing fertilizers, pesticides, and antibiotics also poses unknown hazards to human health and the potential for adverse environmental impact via pollution runoff into the ocean.
 - To address SGD 14 (on oceans): “in effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans”....
 - The Mekong River is generally quite productive, but past fishing cooperatives exploiting such freshwater sources have depleted resources to less than half of its historic output and has led to ceased operations, moving fishing activity to marine sources. The Mekong River Delta region provides $\frac{3}{4}$ of all marine landings in VN and is the livelihood of our people. Ineffective mechanisms, such as the nonexistence of a quota

system fail to regulate overexploitation of oceanic fisheries from illegal harvest and unreported yields.

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