



Statement by Malaysia
Annual Half-Day panel Discussion on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
39th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council
19 September 2018

Mr. President.

My delegation thanks the panellists for their insights on this pertinent topic.

2. Promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples has always been a priority for Malaysia. Our indigenous communities are entitled to the same rights as any other Malaysian citizen.

3. The 2030 Agenda promises to "leave no one behind". Malaysia believes that inclusivity is the key to effectively protect, promote and realize indigenous peoples' rights. Participation of indigenous communities in SDG related strategies and projects are important to ensure they are included in the pursuit towards realising global commitments. In translating the Government's commitments into viable actions, a national plan for the indigenous peoples, drawn upon the strategies outlined in the SDGs has been developed. This plan provides a comprehensive framework to fulfil the economic, political, social and cultural aspirations of indigenous peoples.

4. The Malaysian Government sustains its engagement and consultation with the indigenous peoples to ensure their participation in the development of national legal, institutional and policy frameworks. In order to further improve their livelihood and promote the enjoyment of human rights, the Malaysian Government has taken concrete and durable actions in areas such as education, skills development, economic development, employment, health care, housing and women empowerment.

5. In the context of preservation of culture and traditions of the indigenous communities, we would appreciate it if the panellists could share thoughts on how Governments can ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is culturally appropriate and grounded in indigenous peoples' traditions and values?

I thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
19 September 2018